

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

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Louisville, Nashville, Huntington, and Memphis Districts

Nationwide Permits Reissuance Request for Comments

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u> its proposal to reissue 56 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) and issue one new NWP. One NWP is not proposed for reissuance.

NWPs are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs:

The <u>Federal Register</u> notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2025-0002 at **www.regulations.gov**, or by email to **2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil** or by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the June 18, 2025 <u>Federal Register</u> notice. Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by August 4, 2025.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than 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 the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 1) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by Louisville, Nashville, Huntington, and Memphis Districts for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Louisville, Nashville, Huntington, and Memphis Districts are seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWPs are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and proposed regional conditions should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, 600 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. PL, and 502-315-6733 CELRL.Door.To.The.Corps@usace.army.mil. Comments relating to regional conditions are due by August 4, 2025. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWPs are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act:

States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs. States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs.

Draft Decision Documents:

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWPs, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWPs with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWPs, are available for viewing at **www.regulations.gov**, docket number COE-2025-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWPs that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWPs and conditions. Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWPs through the Corps Home Page at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/, at www.regulations.gov in docket number COE-2025-0002, or at the following Federal Register address:

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissueand-modify-nationwide-permits

Index of Proposed Nationwide Permits, General Conditions, 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. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline 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
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- 19. Minor Dredging
- 20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
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- 22. Removal of Vessels
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- 27. Aquatic Ecosystem 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
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- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
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- 44. Mining Activities
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- 49. Coal Remining Activities
- 50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
- 51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
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- 53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
- 54. Living Shorelines
- 55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
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- 57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- 58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances
- 59. Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities
- A. Activities to Improve Passage of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

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 Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles
- 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. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
- 32. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Nationwide Permit Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs) Compensatory mitigation Currently serviceable Direct effects Discharge **Ecological reference** Enhancement Establishment (creation) High Tide Line Historic property Independent utility Indirect effects Loss of waters of the United States Nature-based solutions Navigable waters 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 Tribal lands Tribal rights Vegetated shallows Waterbody

2026 KENTUCKY REGIONAL GENERAL CONDITIONS

These regional conditions are in addition to, but do not supersede, the requirements in the Federal Register (See volume 90, date June18,2025, pp 26100-26167 for the text of Section C, General Conditions).

Notifications for all Nationwide Permits (NWPs) shall be in accordance with General Condition No. 32.

1. For activities that would result in a loss of Outstanding State or National Resource Waters (OSNRWs), Exceptional Waters (EWs), Coldwater Aquatic Habitat Waters (CAHs) and waters with Designated Critical Habitat (DCH) under the Endangered Species Act for the NWPs listed below, a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) will be required to the Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the appropriate resource agencies (see attached list) on these NWPs for impacts to these waters.

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 12 (Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities) NWP 13 (Bank Stabilization) NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects) NWP 15 (U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges) NWP 16 (Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas) NWP 17 (Hydropower Projects) NWP 18 (Minor Discharges) NWP 19 (Minor Dredging) NWP 20 (Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances) NWP 22 (Removal of Vessels) NWP 23 (Approved Categorical Exclusions) NWP 25 (Structural Discharges) NWP 30 (Moist Soil Management for Wildlife) NWP 32 (Completed Enforcement Actions) NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering) NWP 36 (Boat Ramps) NWP 41 (Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches) NWP 51 (Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities) NWP 57 (Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities) NWP 58 (Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances)

2. In addition to the notification and agency coordination requirements in the NWPs, for impacts greater than 0.25 acres in all "waters of the U.S." for the NWPs listed below, a PCN will be required to the Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the appropriate resource agencies (see attached list) on these NWPs:

NWP 3 (Maintenance) NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects)

- 3. Nationwide Permit No. 14 Linear Transportation Projects.
 - (i) New road alignments or realignments are limited to a permanent loss of 500 linear feet of intermittent or perennial stream length or the stream bed acreages listed in the table below at each crossing. Road crossings with permanent losses greater than 500 linear feet of intermittent or perennial stream or the stream bed acreages listed in the table below associated with new alignments or realignments will be evaluated as an individual permit (i.e., a Letter of Permission or Standard Permit).

Table of Acreages at Varying Stream Widths for 500 Linear Feet of Impact	
Stream	Acres of
Width	Stream at
(Feet)	Varying
	Widths for
	500 Linear
	Feet of Stream
1	0.011
2 3	0.023
3	0.034
4	0.046
5	0.057
6	0.069
7	0.080
8	0.092
9	0.103
10	0.115

(ii) In addition to the notification requirements contained in NWP 14, the permittee must submit a PCN to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity for the permanent loss of greater than 300 linear feet of stream bed or the stream bed acreages listed in the table below. (See General Condition 32 and the definition of "loss of waters of the United States" in the Nationwide Permits for further information.)

Table of Acreages at Varying Stream Widths for 300	
Linear Feet of Impact	
C.	Acres of Stream at
Stream	Varying Widths for
Width	300 Linear Feet of
(Feet)	Stream
1	0.007
2	0.014
3	0.021
4	0.028
5	0.034
6	0.041
7	0.048
8	0.055
9	0.062
10	0.069

- 4. Notification in accordance with General Condition 32 is required to the Corps for all activities located in the following Section 10 waterways, to include the portion of their tributaries below the Ordinary High Water Mark or navigation pool, or otherwise subject to inundation, by the Section 10 waterway:
 - Mississippi River
 - Ohio River* (Mouth to Foster, KY) Mile 0 to 543.0
 - Licking River
 - Kentucky River
 - Salt River
 - Green River
 - Cumberland River
 - Tennessee River
 - Big Sandy River* (from 0.8 mile south of Cyrus, WV to Louisa, KY) Mile 9 to 26.83
 - * Only within the Louisville District area of responsibly
 - 5. Applications and requests should be submitted electronically utilizing the Regulatory Request System (RRS) or via email.
 - i. To submit applications via the RRS, visit https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs. Click on the "Apply for a Permit" box and follow the prompted instructions to enter project information and submit electronic project files.

The RRS can provide an avenue for the public to submit requests for preapplication meetings, jurisdictional determinations, and individual and general permits ii. As an alternative, to submit applications or other requests via email, all documents should be saved as a PDF document, and then submitted as an attachment in an email to the following email address:

CELRL.Door.To.The.Corps@usace.army.mil

Your email should include the following:

a) Subject Line with the name of the applicant, type of request, and location (County and State). Example: RE: Doe, John, DA Permit Application, Jefferson County, KY

b) Brief description of the request and contact information (phone number, mailing address, and email address) for the applicant and/or their agent.

c) Project Location: Address and Latitude/Longitude in decimal degrees (e.g. 42.927883, -88.362576).

All forms that require signature must be digitally signed or signed manually, scanned and then sent electronically.

Electronic documents must have sufficient resolution to show project details. In order to have the highest quality documents, the original digital documents should be converted to PDF rather than providing scanned copies of original documents.

The electronic application and attached documents must not exceed 10 megabytes (10MB).

- iii. In extenuating circumstances, hard copies of applications or other request may be mailed to the appropriate Corps office.
- 6. For all activities, the applicant shall review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's IPaC website: http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac to determine if the activity might affect threatened and/or endangered species or designated critical habitat. If federally-listed species (or species proposed for listing) might be affected or in the vicinity of the activity or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), a PCN in accordance with General Condition 18 and 32 would be triggered and the official species list generated from the IPaC website must be submitted with the PCN.
- 7. Historic Properties: Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Corps must ensure no federal undertaking, including a Corps permit action, which may affect historic resources, is commenced before the impacts of such action are considered and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are provided an opportunity to comment as required by the NHPA, 36 CFR 800, and 33 CFR 325, Appendix C. Consistent with NWP General Condition 20, historic properties information must be provided in the PCN if the proposed undertaking might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be

eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. All relevant information obtained from the SHPO must be submitted with the PCN.

8. Notification in accordance with General Condition 32 is required to the Corps for all activities to jurisdictional wetlands associated with >0.1 acre of permanent conversion of wetland habitat type when the project involves a regulated discharge of fill to Waters of the U.S.

Further information:

The Louisville District, Huntington District, Nashville District and Memphis District all have geographic areas of responsibility within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To determine the appropriate district for your project location, you may utilize the regulatory boundary map on our website <u>https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/offices/.</u>

Outstanding State or National Resource Water (OSNRWs), Exceptional Waters (EWs), and Coldwater Aquatic Habitat Waters (CAHs) are waters designated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. The list can be found at the following link: <u>http://eppcapp.ky.gov/spwaters/</u>

Designated Critical Habitat (DCH) under the Endangered Species Act is determined within the Commonwealth of Kentucky by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The current list of Kentucky's Threatened, Endangered, and Federal Candidate Species can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.fws.gov/frankfort/EndangeredSpecies.html</u>

Information on Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) can be found at NWP General Condition No. 32 in the Federal Register (See volume 90, date June18,2025, pp 26100-26167 for the text of Section C, General Conditions

COORDINATING RESOURCE AGENCIES

Chief, Wetlands Regulatory Section U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Supervisor U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service JC Watts Federal Building, Room 265 330 West Broadway Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Supervisor 401 Water Quality Certification Kentucky Division of Water 300 Sower Boulevard, 3rd Floor Frankfort, KY 40601

Commissioner Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources #1 Sportsman's Lane Frankfort, KY 40601

Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Kentucky Heritage Council 410 High Street Frankfort, KY 40601