## US Army Corps of Engineers® Little Rock District

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS** 

**Application Number: 2021 NWP Reissuance** 

**Date:** March 8, 2021

# SUBJECT: Special Public Notice for the Nationwide Permit Reissuance and Regional Conditions for the State of Arkansas – Issuance of Regional Conditions.

**SUMMARY:** On January 13, 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a final rule in the Federal Register (86 FR 2744) announcing the reissuance of 12 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) and four new NWPs, as well as the reissuance of NWP general conditions and definitions with some modifications. These 16 NWPs will go into effect on March 15, 2021, and will expire on March 14, 2026:

- NWP 12 Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- NWP 21 Surface Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 29 Residential Developments
- NWP 39 Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 Agricultural Activities
- NWP 42 Recreational Facilities
- NWP 43 Stormwater Management Facilities
- NWP 44 Mining Activities
- NWP 48 Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 50 Underground Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 51 Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- NWP 52 Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- NWP 55 Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- NWP 56 Finfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 57 Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- NWP 58 Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances

The 12 existing NWPs published in the January 13, 2021 final rule replace the 2017 versions of these NWPs. The 2017 versions of NWPs 12, 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, and 52 expire on March 14, 2021. According to 33 CFR § 330.6(b), activities which have commenced (i.e, are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon an NWP that was verified under the 2017 NWP, will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of an NWP's expiration, modification, or revocation. If an activity that was verified under these 12 existing NWPs and has commenced or is under contract to commence, they will remain authorized until March 14, 2022.

**REGIONAL CONDITIONS:** With the publication of these NWPs in the Federal Register, the Southwestern Division has finalized regional conditions for these 16 NWPs in Arkansas. Regional conditions provide additional protection for the aquatic environment and help ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Regional conditions help ensure protection of high value waters within the Little Rock District. The Regional Conditions are enclosed.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Arkansas Energy & Environment, Division of Environmental Quality has issued Section 401 Water Quality Certification for all Section 404 NWPs with the exception of any NWP that may impact Extraordinary Resource Waters, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbodies, and Natural Scenic Waterways.

**NWP 2017:** There are 40 existing NWPs that were not reissued or modified by the January 13, 2021 final rule. These 40 NWPs were published in the January 6, 2017, issue of the Federal Register (82 FR 1860) and these NWPs remain in effect until the Corps issues a final rule reissuing those NWPs or March 18, 2022, whichever comes first. The 40 2017 NWPs that remain in effect are:

- NWP 1 Aids to Navigation
- NWP 2 Structures in Artificial Canals
- 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 7 Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- NWP 8 Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- NWP 9 Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- NWP 10 Mooring Buoys
- NWP 11 Temporary Recreational Structures
- 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 24 Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- NWP 25 Structural Discharges
- NWP 27 Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- NWP 28 Modifications of Existing Marinas
- NWP 30 Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- NWP 31 Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- NWP 32 Completed Enforcement Actions
- NWP 33 Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- NWP 34 Cranberry Production Activities
- NWP 35 Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins

- NWP 36 Boat Ramps
- NWP 37 Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- NWP 38 Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- NWP 41 Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- NWP 45 Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- NWP 46 Discharges in Ditches
- NWP 49 Coal Remining Activities
- NWP 53 Removal of Low-Head Dams
- NWP 54 Living Shorelines

The regional conditions and WQCs for these 40 NWPs, that were approved by division engineers in 2017, remain in effect while these 2017 NWPs remain in effect.

The January 13, 2021, Federal Register notice is available for viewing at <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00102/reissuance-and-modification-of-nationwide-permits">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00102/reissuance-and-modification-of-nationwide-permits</a>.

As an alternative, interested parties can access the January 13, 2021, final rule and related documents at: <a href="https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/">https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/</a>.

All Little Rock District NWP Documents and information will be posted at: <a href="https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Types-of-Permits/#Nationwide%20Permits/">https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Types-of-Permits/#Nationwide%20Permits/</a>.

POINT OF CONTACT: If you have questions or need additional information please contact Lisa Boyle via email at lisa.a.boyle@usace.army.mil or by phone at (501) 340-1385.

#### **Enclosures:**

Regional Conditions Section 401 Water Quality Certifications Conditions

## NATIONWIDE PERMIT REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

**Regional Condition No. 1.** For Nationwide Permits (NWPs) 12, 57, and 58, intake structures shall be constructed with screening to prevent the entry of fish.

**Regional Condition No. 2.** For NWPs No. 12, 51, 57, and 58, and in the following listed waters, when federally jurisdictional, the prospective permittee shall provide written notification to the appropriate District. Notification will be to the District Engineer according to *General Condition No. 32 (Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 8, FR 2744-2877).* 

- Fens A peat-accumulating wetland that receives some drainage from surrounding mineral soil and usually supports marshlike vegetation.
- **Bogs** A peat-accumulating wetland that has no major inflows or outflows and supports acidophilic mosses, particularly sphagnum.
- **Groundwater seeps** Wetlands at the base of steep slopes where the groundwater surface intersects with the land surface.
- **Dune depressional wetlands** Wetlands in shallow depressions that have no major outflows but receive runoff from the surrounding land, located between sandy ridges in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri. These wetlands often support pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), a federally-listed endangered plant.
- Cache River and adjacent wetlands From the mouth upstream to AR Highway 18 near Grubbs.

**Regional Condition No. 3.** NWP No. 44 cannot be used to authorize mining activities within areas of government-managed navigation systems on rivers designated as navigable under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. Code 403).

**Regional Condition No. 4.** Federally listed threatened or endangered species are known to occur in the waters listed below. For NWPs No. 12, 48, 51, 57, and 58, the prospective permittee shall provide written notification to the appropriate District in order to comply with NWP General Condition No. 18. Notification will be to the District Engineer according to *General Condition No. 32 (Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 8, FR 2744-2877)*. This notification shall be used to review the project to ensure that the proposed project will have "no effect" on federally listed threatened or endangered (T&E) species and to determine if the project would have a minimal impact on the aquatic environment. The application will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies as determined appropriate by the Corps of Engineers. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act consultation addressing the effects of the

proposed activity has been completed (refer to NWP General Condition No. 18). The list of waters may be revised periodically in the case of future updates to the status of T&E species.

Waterbody	County	Species
Caves/Karst	Benton, Washington	Cambarus aculabrum (Benton County Cave Crayfish),
		Troglichthys rosae (Ozark Cave Crayfish)
Caves/Karst	Marion, Stone	Cambarus zophonastes (Hell Creek Crayfish)
Wetlands	Ashley, Clay, Craighead,	Lindera melissifolia (Pondberry)
	Crittenden, Jackson,	
	Lawrence, Poinsett, Woodruff	

Stream Name	County	Species
Alum Fork Saline River	Saline	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
Archey Creek	Van Buren	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter), Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook)
Arkansas River	Arkansas, Conway, Crawford, Desha, Faulkner, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln, Logan, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Sebastian, Yell	Scaphirhynchus albus (pallid sturgeon), Sternula antillarum athalassos (Interior Least Tern)
Beech Creek	Cleburne, Stone	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter), Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook)
Big Brushy Creek	Montgomery	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Big Creek	Cleburne	Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook)
Black River	Clay, Lawrence, Randolph	Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi (Ozark Hellbender), Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Brush Creek	Perry	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Buffalo Creek	Polk	Percina pantherina (leopard darter)
Buffalo River	Marion, Newton, Searcy	Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Caddo River Above DeGray Lake	Clark, Montgomery, Pike	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
Caddo River Below DeGray Lake	Clark	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
Cane Island Slough Ditch	Craighead	Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Clear Fork	Scott	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Cossatot River Above Gillham Lake	Howard, Polk	Percina pantherina (leopard darter)
Cossatot River Below Gillham Lake	Howard, Sevier	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Quadrula fragosa (Winged Mapleleaf), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)

Stream Name	County	Species
Current River	Clay, Randolph	Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Devils Fork Little Red River	Cleburne	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter)
Dry Fork Fourche LaFave River	Perry, Yell	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Eleven Point River	Randolph	Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi (Ozark Hellbender), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket)
Fiddlers Creek	Montgomery, Yell	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Fourche LaFave River	Scott, Yell	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Frog Bayou	Crawford	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell)
Illinois River	Benton, Washington	Lampsilis rafinesqueana (Neosho Mucket), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Irons Fork	Polk	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Irons Fork Ouachita River	Garland, Montgomery, Yell	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Kings River	Carroll, Madison	Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
L' Anguille River	Lee	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
Left Hand Chute Little River	Mississippi, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
Little Brushy Creek	Montgomery	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Little Missouri River below Lake Greeson	Clark, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike	Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Quadrula fragosa (Winged Mapleleaf), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Little River Above Millwood Lake	Little River, Sevier	Arcidens wheeleri (Ouachita Rock Pocketbook), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Little River Below Millwood Lake	Hempstead, Little River	Arcidens wheeleri (Ouachita Rock Pocketbook)
Middle Fork Little Red River	Cleburne, Searcy, Stone, Van Buren	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter), Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Middle Fork Saline River	Garland, Saline	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
Mississippi River	Chicot, Crittenden, Desha, Lee, Mississippi, Phillips	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook), Scaphirhynchus albus (pallid sturgeon), Sternula antillarum athalassos (Interior Least Tern)
Mountain Fork River	Polk	Percina pantherina (leopard darter)
Muddy Creek	Montgomery	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Muddy Fork Illinois River	Washington	Lampsilis rafinesqueana (Neosho Mucket)
Myatt Creek	Fulton	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell)
North Fork Creek	Garland	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
North Fork Ouachita River	Montgomery	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
North Fork Saline River	Perry, Saline	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)

Stream Name	County	Species
Ouachita River, Lower	Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Dallas, Hot Spring, Ouachita, Union	Arcidens wheeleri (Ouachita Rock Pocketbook), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket), Margaritifera monodonta (Spectaclecase), Quadrula fragosa (Winged Mapleleaf), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Ouachita River, Upper	Montgomery, Polk	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Rainy Creek	Montgomery	Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Red River	Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River, Miller	Sternula antillarum athalassos (Interior Least Tern)
Right Hand Chute Little River, Ditches, and Sand Slu	Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
Robinson Creek	Polk, Sevier	Percina pantherina (leopard darter)
Rolling Fork Below DeQueen Reservoir	Sevier	Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Saline River	Ashley, Bradley, Cleveland, Dallas, Drew, Grant, Saline	Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket), Quadrula fragosa (Winged Mapleleaf), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Saline River Below Dierks Reservoir	Howard, Sevier	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
South Fork Little Red River	Van Buren	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter), Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook)
South Fork Ouachita River	Montgomery	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
South Fork Saline River	Garland, Saline	Lampsilis powellii (Arkansas Fatmucket)
South Fork Spring River	Fulton, Sharp	Epioblasma curtisii (Curtis Pearlymussel), Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
South Fourche LaFave River	Perry, Yell	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Ptilimnium nodosum (harperella)
Spring River	Fulton, Lawrence, Randolph, Sharp	Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi (Ozark Hellbender), Epioblasma curtisii (Curtis Pearlymussel), Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
St. Francis River	Clay, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Lee, Phillips, Poinsett, St. Francis	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Clark Corner Cutoff	St. Francis	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Cross County Ditch	Cross	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Ditch No 10	Craighead, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Ditch No 123	Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Ditch No 60	Craighead, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)

Stream Name	County	Species
St. Francis River, Ditch No 61	Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Ditch No 9	Craighead, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Iron Mines Creek	Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Little Bay Ditch	Craighead, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Little Slough Ditch	Craighead	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, St. Francis Bay	Cross	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, St. Francis Floodway	Lee, St. Francis	Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
St. Francis River, Straight Slough	Cross, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
Strawberry River	Fulton, Independence, Izard, Lawrence, Sharp	Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
Turkey Creek	Stone	Etheostoma moorei (yellowcheek darter), Lampsilis streckeri (Speckled Pocketbook)
Tyronza River	Crittenden, Cross, Mississippi, Poinsett	Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook)
War Eagle Creek	Benton, Madison, Washington	Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)
White River, downstream of Dam No. 3	Arkansas, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Stone, White, Woodruff	Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi (Ozark Hellbender), Epioblasma triquetra (Snuffbox), Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket), Leptodea leptodon (Scaleshell), Potamilus capax (Fat Pocketbook), Theliderma cylindrica (Rabbitsfoot)

#### Nomenclatural changes

Scientific Name on Previous li	st Current Scientific Name
Amblyobis rosae	Troglichthys rosae
Cumberlandia monodonta	Margaritifera monodonta
Epioblasma florentina curtisii	Epioblasma curtisii
Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica	Theliderma cylindrica



November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Colonel Eric M. Noe, District Commander Little Rock District Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 867 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867

RE: Public Notice: Re-issuance of Nationwide Permits 2020

Dear Colonel Noe,

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed its review of the above referenced public notice for re-issuance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits (NWPs) for the State of Arkansas.

DEQ has determined discharges from projects covered under these NWPs will comply with water quality requirements according to Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission's (APC&EC) Rule 2.

Therefore, pursuant to §401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, the DEQ hereby issues water quality certification for all NWPs, contingent upon the following conditions:

- 1) An individual water quality certification request must be submitted to DEQ for activities which may impact Extraordinary Resource Waters, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbodies, and Natural Scenic Waterways as identified in APC&EC Rule 2, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Arkansas. In order to determine compliance with the standards set forth in APC&EC Rule 2.203 for these Outstanding Resource Waters, projects covered under NWPs on these waters shall be reviewed by DEQ.
- 2) In accordance with APC&EC Rule 2.305, the applicant shall obtain a Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA) when performing work in the wetted area of waters of the state as defined by Arkansas Code Annotated (A.C.A.) §8-4-102. Activities approved under a STAA, are subject to the provisions that no permanent or long-term impairment of beneficial uses is likely to result from such activity. More information can be obtained by visiting <a href="https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/planning/instream/">https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/planning/instream/</a> or <a href="https://eportal.adeq.state.ar.us/">https://eportal.adeq.state.ar.us/</a>.
- 3) The applicant shall implement all practicable best management practices (BMPs) to avoid excessive impacts of turbidity to waters of the state, 40 CFR §122.26(c).
- 4) The applicant will take all reasonable measures to prevent the spillage or leakage of any chemicals, oil, grease, gasoline, diesel, or other fuel in accordance with A.C.A. §8-4-217. In the unlikely event such spillage or leakage occurs, the applicant must contact E&E Emergency Response at 501-682-0716 immediately.

5) If a construction site will disturb equal to or greater than one (1) acre and less than five (5) acres, the applicant shall comply with the requirements in APC&EC Rule 6.203 for Stormwater discharge associated with a small construction site, as defined in APC&EC Rule No. 6. If the construction site will disturb five (5) acres or more, the applicant shall comply with the terms of the Stormwater Construction General Permit Number ARR150000 prior to the start of construction. BMPs must be implemented regardless of the size. More information can be obtained by contacting the NPDES Stormwater Section of DEQ at (501) 682-0623.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Blanz, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Director, Office of Water Quality

Cc: Sarah Chitwood, Regulatory Division Chief USACE

Lisa Boyle, Project Manager USACE

Wanda Boyd, U.S. EPA