



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Dale F. Doughty  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

January 16, 2026  
Subject: St. Mary's Bridge #5309  
Bridge Replacement Project  
State WIN: 026083.00  
Location: **Van Buren**  
**Amendment No. 1**

Dear Sir/Ms.:

Please make the following changes to the Bid Documents:

In the Bid Book **REMOVE** "SPECIAL PROVISION, SECTION 105 "General Scope of Work (Environmental Requirements)" dated December 22, 2025 and **REPLACE** with the SPECIAL PROVISION, SECTION 105 "General Scope of Work (Environmental Requirements)" dated January 13, 2026.

In the Bid Book **REMOVE** "Environmental Summary Sheet" dated December 22, 2025 page 233 and **REPLACE** with the attached "Environmental Summary Sheet" dated January 13, 2025

In the Bid Book, **ADD** the attached US Army Corps of Engineers permit package, 59 pages.

Consider these changes and information prior to submitting your bid on **February 4, 2026**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Macdougall".

George M. A. Macdougall P.E.  
Contracts & Specifications Engineer

Town: Van Buren  
WIN #: 26083.00  
Date: January 13, 2026

SPECIAL PROVISION  
SECTION 105  
General Scope of Work  
(Environmental Requirements)

Work within stream (“In Stream Work,” see MaineDOT Standard Specifications 101.2 Definitions) requires special conditions to minimize impacts. The following special conditions shall apply to this project

- I. In-Water Work is allowed from June 1 to September 30.
- II. In-Water work window applies to the following water bodies at the following station #'s: Violette Brook at proposed bridge replacement
- III. Tree clearing can occur at any time of year.
- IV. Special Conditions:
  1. Special Conditions of Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) General Permit apply (see permit and conditions in contract documents).
  2. The contractor shall contact Nicholas Koltai of MaineDOT Environmental Office (207-557-3471; [nicholas.koltai@maine.gov](mailto:nicholas.koltai@maine.gov)) at least 2 weeks prior to installation of any cofferdams to coordinate fish evacuation.
  3. All in-water excavation shall be conducted within a cofferdam
  4. All areas of temporary stream or wetland fill must be within the specified limits on the plans and shall be restored to their original contour and character upon completion of the project. Temporary fill includes fill that received authorization and fill that mistakenly enters a resource (i.e., from slope failures, accidental broken sandbag cofferdams, miscellaneous construction materials, etc.).
  5. The contractor shall fully remove all cofferdams from the stream immediately following completion of in-stream work using techniques to minimize turbidity releases. The contractor shall restore all areas of temporary stream bottom disturbance to their original contour and character upon completion of the project.
  6. All off-road equipment shall be cleaned to remove all soil, seeds, vegetation, or other debris that could contain seeds or reproductive portions of plants prior to entering the area to minimize the spread of noxious weeds. All equipment shall be inspected prior to offloading to ensure they are clean.
- V. Approvals:
  1. Temporary Soil Erosion and Water Pollution Control Plan
  2. Resource Impacts (square feet); permit pending, see attached plan for locations:

<u>Stream:</u>	<u>Wetland:</u>
<i>Permanent: OHWM – 90 sf</i>	<i>Permanent PFO – 140 sf</i>
<i>Temporary: OHWM – 2510 sf</i>	<i>PSS - 405 sf</i>
	<i>Temporary PFO – 130 sf</i>
	<i>PSS - 225 sf</i>
	<i>PEM – 555 sf</i>
	<i>Conversion PSS → OHWM – 805 sf</i>
- VI. All activities are prohibited (including placement and removal of cofferdams unless otherwise permitted by Regulatory Agencies) below the normal high water mark if outside the prescribed in-water work window, except for the following:
  1. Work within a cofferdam constructed according to MaineDOT’s Standard Specifications and in adherence with the contractor’s approved “Soil Erosion and Water Pollution Control Plan”.
- VII. No work is allowed that completely blocks a river, stream, or brook without providing downstream flow.

Town: Van Buren

WIN #: 26083.00

Date: January 13, 2026

NOTE: Regulatory Review and Approval is required to modify the existing In-Water work window. Requests for work window extensions must be submitted to the MaineDOT Environmental Office. Approval of requests for work window extensions is not guaranteed and may result in delays in construction schedule that are the sole responsibility of the contractor.



### Environmental Summary Sheet

WIN: 26083.00  
Town: Van Buren  
CPD Team Leader: Andrea Brady  
ENV Field Contact: Ryan Annis

Date Submitted: 1/13/2026

NEPA Complete: 1/8/2025 – MOU CE: 23 CFR 771.117(c)(28)

**Section 106**  
No effect  
Section 106 Resources: none

**Section 4(f) and 6(f)**  
Section 4(f) Section 6(f)  
No properties No Properties

**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Essential Habitat**  
Not Applicable **Timing Window:** Not Applicable

**Section 7**  
**Species of Concern: Northern Long-eared Bat. – No Effect**  
Concurrence letter signed 9/3/2024.  
  
**Species of Concern: Canada Lynx – Not Likely to Adversely Affect.**  
Concurrence letter signed 9/3/2024.

**Essential Fish Habitat**  
Not mapped as EFH

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry**  
Public Lands, Submerged Land Lease: Not Applicable  
Maine Land Use Planning Commission: Not Applicable

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Exempt per 38 MRSA 480-Q 2-D**

*\*Applicable Standards and Permits are included with the contract*

**Army Corps of Engineers: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Pre-Construction Notification NAE-2025-02495**  
In-water work June 1 – September 30  
Work Start Notification Form and Compliance Certification Form must be completed by the Resident and/or ENV Field Contact and submitted to the Corps with copy to Andrea Brady

*\*Applicable Standards and Permits are included with the contract*

**Stormwater Review**  
Completed – no concerns

**Hazardous Material Review**  
Completed – no concerns

**Special Provisions Required**

Special Provision 105-Environmental Requirements	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standard Specification 656-Erosion Control Plan	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Provision 203-Dredge Materials	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Special Provision 203 – Special Fill – Streambed Material	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Note for Hazardous Waste	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>

*\*All permits and approvals based on plans/scope as of: 1/8/2025*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT OFFICE  
696 VIRGINIA ROAD  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742-2751

January 6, 2026

Regulatory Division  
Transportation & Utility Section  
File Number: NAE-2025-02495  
MaineDOT WIN: 26083.00

Andrea Brady  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 Station House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
Via Email: [andrea.f.brady@maine.gov](mailto:andrea.f.brady@maine.gov)

Dear Andrea Brady:

This letter is in response to the application you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District on November 25, 2025, for a Department of the Army general permit verification. We have assigned this project file number NAE-2025-02495, which you should reference in all correspondence with this office. The work will replace a bridge over non-tidal waters, located at 272 Castonguay Road in Van Buren, Aroostook County, Maine (Latitude 47.1511°, Longitude -67.9689°). The existing bridge consists of a 26.9-span corrugated steel plate arch culvert, which will be removed and replaced with a 72-foot single-span steel beam bridge supported by integral abutments and armored with riprap. The bridge opening will be increased from 151 square feet to 395 square feet. Below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Violette Brook, there will be 90 square feet of permanent riprap fill and 2,510 square feet of temporary fill from cofferdams, dewatering, and construction access. The work will discharge 545 square feet of permanent fill and 910 square feet of temporary fill in palustrine wetlands for construction access. All in-water construction will be completed behind sealed cofferdams. The work is shown on a plan set titled "MaineDOT WIN 26083.00," on five sheets dated November 17 and April 18, 2025.

Based on the information you have provided, we verify that the activity is authorized under General Permit 14 – Linear Transportation Projects of the November 10, 2025, federal permit known as the Maine General Permits (GPs). If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a revised application must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. You can find a copy of these permits at:  
[https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/ME\\_RGP\\_NAE-2025-00485-MODIFIED\\_1.pdf](https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/ME_RGP_NAE-2025-00485-MODIFIED_1.pdf).

Please review the enclosed GPs carefully, in particular the general conditions beginning on page 82, and ensure that you and all personnel performing work authorized by the GPs are fully aware of and comply with its terms and conditions. A copy of the GPs and this verification letter must be available at the work site as required by General Condition 36. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to the enforcement provisions of our regulations. You must perform this work in compliance with the terms and conditions of the GPs listed above, and in compliance with the following special conditions:

**Project Specific Special Conditions:**

1. The permittee shall complete and return the enclosed Work-Start Notification Form to this office at least two weeks prior to the anticipated construction start date.
2. The permittee shall complete and return the enclosed Compliance Certification Form to this office within one month following the completion of the authorized work.
3. All construction shall be completed in accordance with the limits of construction and construction sequences detailed on the enclosed plan drawings, titled "MaineDOT WIN 26083.00," on five sheets dated November 17 and April 18, 2025. If you change the plans or construction methods for work within or adjacent to Chase Mills Stream, please contact us immediately to discuss modification of this authorization. USACE must approve any changes before you undertake them.
4. In-water work shall occur between June 1 through September 30 of any year(s).
5. This project shall be performed in accordance with erosion control measures conforming with the latest versions of the *State of Maine Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges* and the *Department of Transportation's Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control*.
6. If the authorized work is not complete before the monarch butterfly (*Danus plexippus*) is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the permittee shall contact the Federal Highway Administration to initiate ESA Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The permittee shall also notify USACE to determine if the consultation will result in a need to reverify the project under the GPs.

This verification is valid until October 31, 2030. You must commence or be under contract to commence the work authorized herein by October 31, 2030, and complete the work by October 31, 2031. If not, you must contact this office to determine the need for further authorization and we recommend you contact us *before* the work authorized

herein expires. Please contact us immediately if you change the plans or construction methods for work within our jurisdiction as we must approve any changes before you undertake them. Performing work within our jurisdiction that is not specifically authorized by this determination or failing to comply with the special condition(s) provided above or all of the terms and conditions of the GPs may subject you to the enforcement provisions of our regulations.

This GP verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other federal, state, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Rachel Antieau, Senior Project Manager at 978-580-3512, or by email at [rachel.h.antieau@usace.army.mil](mailto:rachel.h.antieau@usace.army.mil). This agency continually strives to improve our customer service. To better serve you, please complete the Customer Service Survey located at: <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>.

Sincerely,



Grace Moses  
Chief, Technical Support Branch  
Regulatory Division

Enclosures

cc (w/enclosures):

Kristen Chamberlain, MaineDOT; [kristen.chamberlain@maine.gov](mailto:kristen.chamberlain@maine.gov)

Frank Frost, MDIFW; [frank.frost@maine.gov](mailto:frank.frost@maine.gov)

Maine DEP; [landoncall@maine.gov](mailto:landoncall@maine.gov)

**Work-Start Notification Form**

**File Number: NAE-2025-02495                      State: Maine                      County: Aroostook**

**Permittee: Maine Department of Transportation  
Date Verification Issued: 1/6/2026  
Project Manager: Rachel Antieau**

At least two weeks prior to commencing the activity authorized by this permit, sign this certification and return it to the following address:

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
New England District  
Attn: Rachel Antieau  
442 Civic Center Drive Suite 350  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
or  
rachel.h.antieau@usace.army.mil  
978-580-3512**

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) representative. Failure to comply with any terms or conditions of this authorization may result in the USACE suspending, modifying or revoking the authorization and/or issuing a Class I administrative penalty, or initiating other appropriate legal action.

**The people (e.g. contractor) listed below will do the work, and they understand the permit's conditions and limitations.**

**Contractor Name/Contractor Firm:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contractor Phone and Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Construction Dates:    Start:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Finish:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Permittee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

<p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</p> <p><b>CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT</b></p> <p>For use of this form, see Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; the proponent agency is CECW-COR.</p>	<p><i>Form Approved -</i></p> <p><i>OMB No. 0710-0003</i></p> <p><i>Expires 2027-10-31</i></p>
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**The Agency Disclosure Notice (ADN)**

The Public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**PURPOSE:** This form is used by recipients of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Regulatory permits to certify compliance with the permit terms and conditions.

Your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit, you are subject to permit suspension, modification, or revocation.

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Office.

The certification can be submitted by email at [cenae-r-tu@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenae-r-tu@usace.army.mil) or by mail at the below address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 New England District Office  
 Street Address: 696 Virginia Road  
 City: Concord                      State: Massachusetts    Zip Code: 01742-2751

**COMPLETED BY THE CORPS**

Corps Action Number:	NAE-2025-02495
Permit Type: <u>General Permit</u>	
General Permit Number and Name ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	14 – Linear Transportation Projects
Name of Permittee:	Maine Department of Transportation
Project Name:	Van Buren – MaineDOT WIN 26083.00
Project Location ( <i>physical address</i> ):	272 Castonguay Road , Van Buren, Maine Latitude 47.151062°, Longitude -67.968864°

**PERMITTEE'S CERTIFICATION**

Date Work Started: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Work Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose photographs showing the completed project (*if available*).

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit has been completed in accordance with all of the permit terms and conditions, and that any required compensatory mitigation has been completed in accordance with the permit conditions.

Name	Date	Signature
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# Project Location Map



The Maine Department of Transportation provides this publication for information only. Reliance upon this information is at user risk. It is subject to revision and may be incomplete depending upon changing conditions. The Department assumes no liability if injuries or damages result from this information. This map is not intended to support emergency dispatch.

0.06  
Miles  
1 inch = 0.06 miles

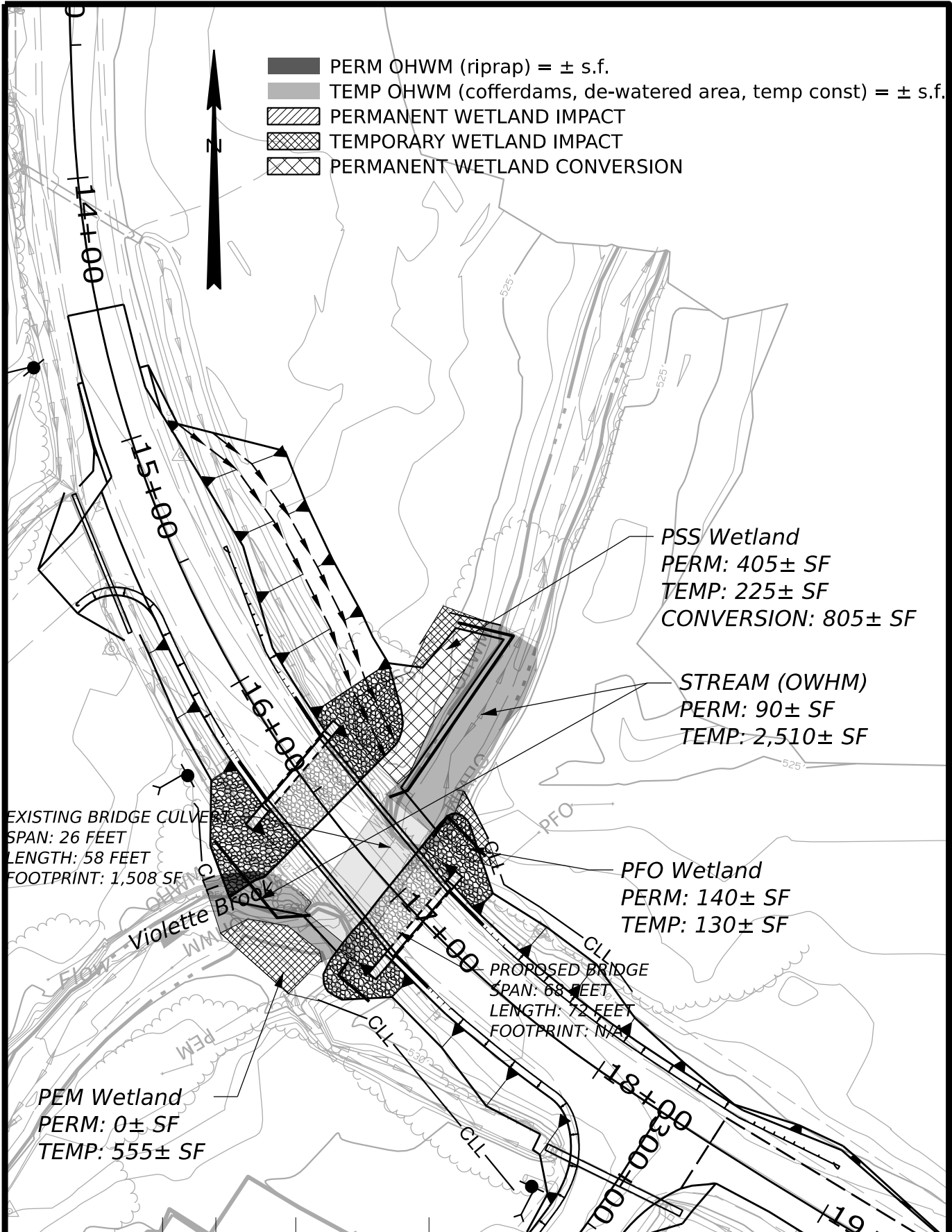
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## MaineDOT WIN 26083.00

Van Buren – Bridge Replacement  
St Mary's Bridge (#5309) over Violette Brook  
Van Buren Twp, ME  
47.151062, -67.968864

Aroostook County, ME





STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WIN: 26083.00

CASTONGUAY ROAD VAN BUREN  
AROOSTOOK COUNTY

SHEET NUMBER  
**1**

11/17/2025

IMPACT SHEET

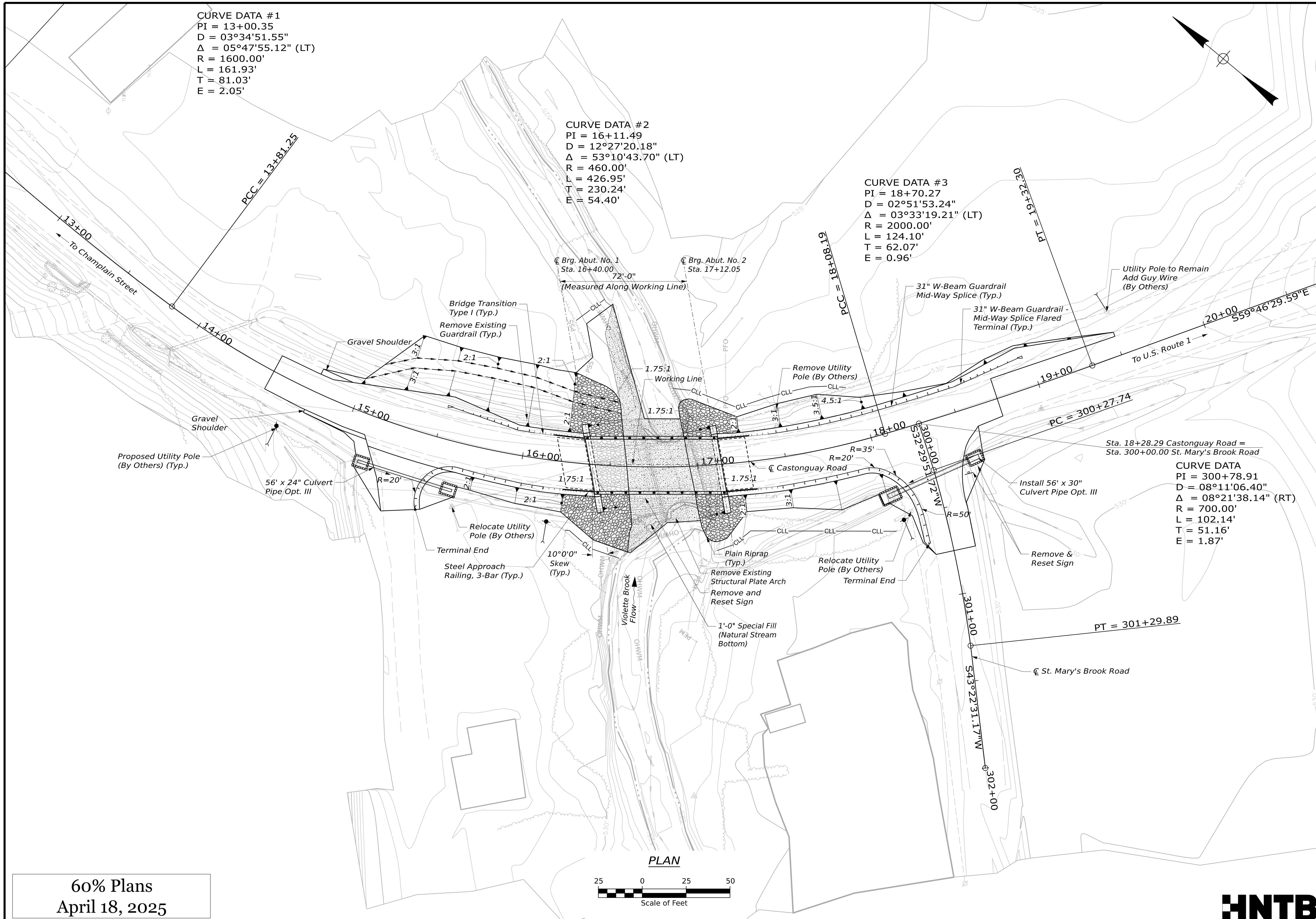
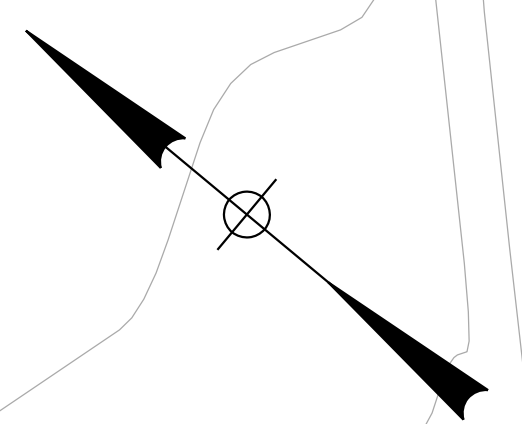
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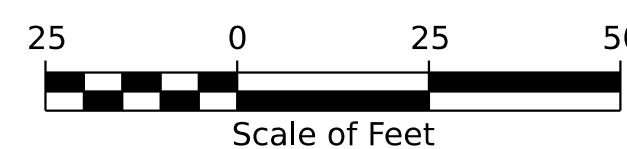
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 E = 2.05'

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 Δ = 53°10'43.70" (LT)  
 R = 460.00'  
 L = 426.95'  
 T = 230.24'  
 E = 54.40'

CURVE DATA #3  
 PI = 18+70.27  
 D = 02°51'53.24"  
 Δ = 03°33'19.21" (LT)  
 R = 2000.00'  
 L = 124.10'  
 T = 62.07'  
 E = 0.96'



PLAN



60% Plans  
 April 18, 2025

STATE OF MAINE  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 2608300  
 WIN  
 26083.00  
 BRIDGE NO. 5309  
 BRIDGE PLANS

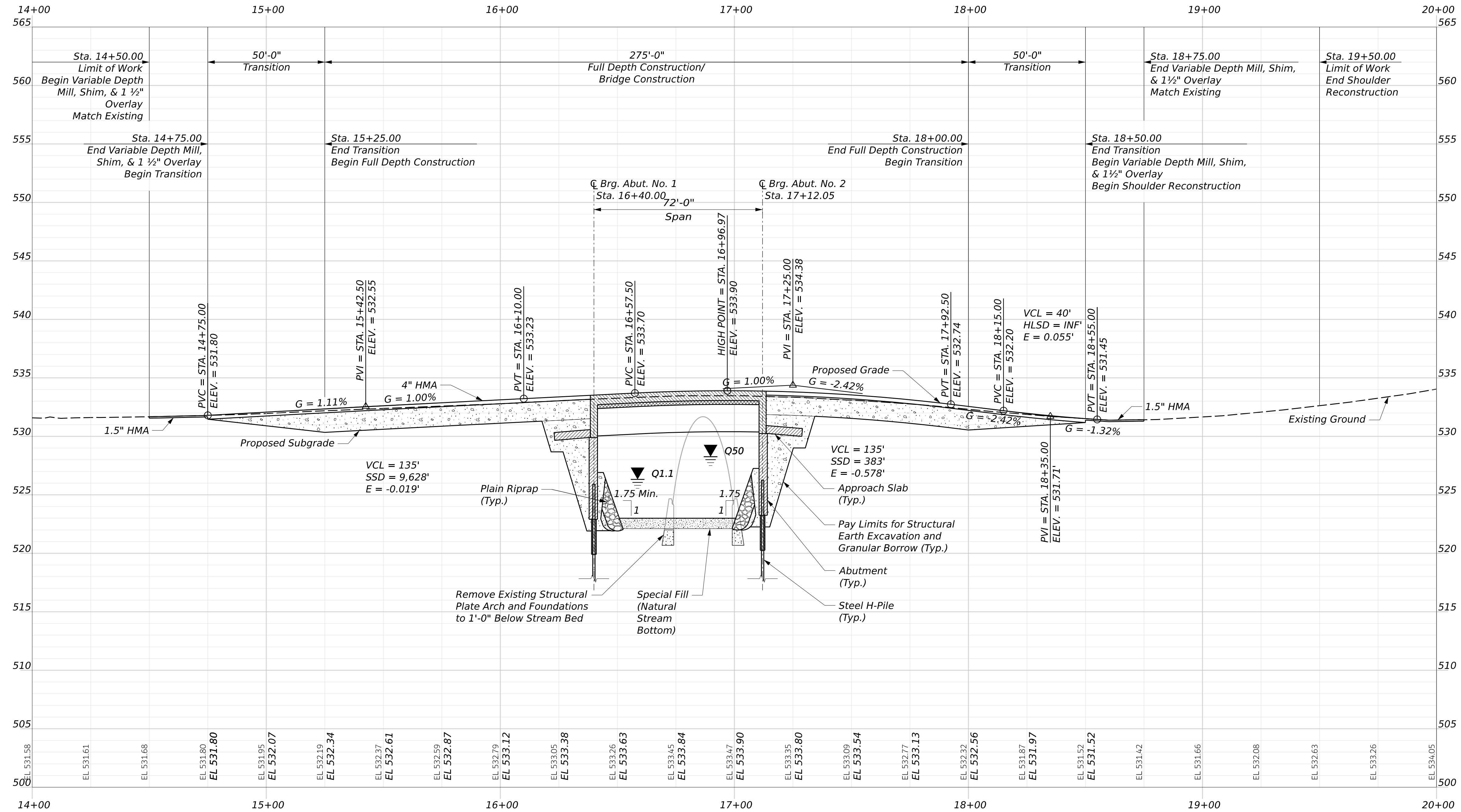
PROJ. MANAGER	BY	DATE	SIGNATURE	P.E. NUMBER	DATE
DESIGN-DETAILED	C. Tobin	04/2025			
CHECKED-REVIEWED	B. Gerner	04/2025			
DESIGN-DETAILED	L. Pirelli				
REVISIONS 1					
REVISIONS 2					
REVISIONS 3					
REVISIONS 4					
FIELD CHANGES					

PROJ. MANAGER	BY	DATE	SIGNATURE	P.E. NUMBER	DATE
DESIGN-DETAILED	C. Tobin	04/2025			
CHECKED-REVIEWED	B. Gerner	04/2025			
DESIGN-DETAILED	L. Pirelli				
REVISIONS 1					
REVISIONS 2					
REVISIONS 3					
REVISIONS 4					
FIELD CHANGES					

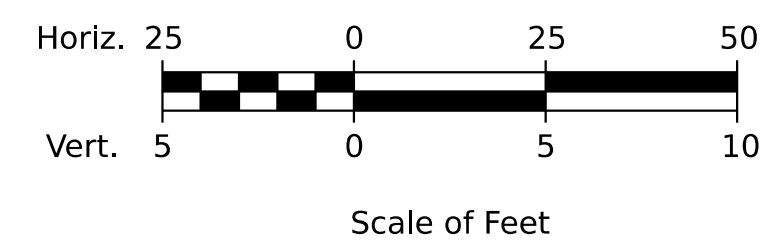
VAN BUREN  
 ST. MARY'S BRIDGE  
 GENERAL PLAN

SHEET NUMBER  
 3  
 OF 30





PROFILE - Castonguay Road



60% Plans  
 April 18, 2025

PROJ. MANAGER	Michael Wight	BY	C. Tobin	DATE	04/2025
DESIGN-REVIEWED	L. Phipps	CHECKED	B. Gerner	SIGNATURE	
DESIGN-REVIEWED		DESIGN-REVIEWED		P.E. NUMBER	
REVISIONS 1		REVISIONS 2		DATE	
REVISIONS 3		REVISIONS 4			
FIELD CHANGES					

VAN BUREN	
ST. MARY'S BRIDGE	
PROFILE I	

SHEET NUMBER	
4	
OF 30	



General Permit No.: NAE-2025-00485  
Applicant: General Public, State of Maine

Effective Date: November 10, 2025  
Expiration Date: October 31, 2030

**Department of the Army  
Regional General Permits for the State of Maine**

The New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces the thirty-seven (37) state-wide Department of Army Regional General Permits known as the Maine Regional General Permits (ME RGPs) with a modified Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency determination. This ME RGP document reflects updates resulting from a subsequent modification of the October 10, 2025 Maine general WQC and CZM consistency determination.

The ME RGPs are issued for activities subject to Corps jurisdiction in waters of the U.S., including wetlands; and navigable waters within the State of Maine and adjacent ocean waters to the seaward limit of the outer continental shelf. The Maine RGPs (hereafter referred to as the ME RGP or RGP) are issued in accordance with Corps regulations at 33 CFR 320 – 332 [see 33 CFR 325.5(c)(1)].

RGPs numbered “1-60” were developed to closely match the current 2021 Nationwide Permits (NWP) and the upcoming 2026 NWP. The next NWP is proposed to be reissued in March 2026 and are proposed to be used in New England District (NAE), including the Maine Section. To ensure General Permit coverage, between October (expiration of existing Maine Regional General Permits NAE-2019-02771) to March (when the NWP will be issued), the below RGPs will be used. Each RGP has been numbered to coincide with the current NWP for ease of transition. Please note, once the 2026 NWP is issued, New England District may phase in some or all the NWP. The RGPs that have letters (A-C) will likely be proposed as New England District RGPs (post March 2026) as these activities are not covered under any proposed NWP. If the new NWP and/ or RGPs are proposed to be used in New England District, the NWP will be public noticed in accordance with 33 CFR 330.5.

This document contains the following sections:

Pages

SECTION I	Statutory Authorities and Regulated Activities	2
SECTION II	RGP Procedures	3-7
SECTION III	Maine General Permits	8-81
SECTION IV	General Conditions	82-110
SECTION V	District Engineers Discussion	111-113
SECTION VI	Definitions and Acronyms	114-119

*Tammy R. Turley*

November 10, 2025

Tammy R. Turley  
Chief, Regulatory Division  
New England District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date

## **SECTION I. STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND REGULATED ACTIVITIES**

### 1. Federal Authorities

- a. **Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** (see 33 CFR Part 322). The Corps regulates any *structure* in, over, or under any *navigable waters of the United States* (as defined in 33 CFR 329), and *work* such as excavating or dredging from or depositing of material in such waters, or the accomplishment of any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters.
- b. **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act** (see 33 CFR Part 323). The Corps regulates the discharge of *dredged material* or *fill material* and certain discharges associated with excavation into *waters of the United States* (as defined in 33 CFR 328), including wetlands. Exemptions of Section 404 can be found at 33 CFR Part 323.4.

### 2. State Approvals

Applicants are responsible for applying for and obtaining any required state or local government agency approvals, such as those required by Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Land Use Planning Commission, and Maine Department of Marine Resources; as well as those required by the City, Town, or County the project is located within. In many cases activities requiring Corps authorization will also require approval from these government agencies. However, Federal and state jurisdiction as well as review criteria will differ in some cases. State and Local permits may be required for specific projects regardless of Corps jurisdiction.

When state or local approvals or statutorily required reviews are also required, those approvals should be obtained prior to commencing work under Corps jurisdiction. Refer to the document titled “*Agency & Partners Contact Directory*”, which can be found on the Corps website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/state-general-permits/maine-general-permit/>.

## **SECTION II. RGP PROCEDURES**

To qualify under these RGPs, the design, construction, maintenance, and use associated with each proposed activity shall meet the terms and eligibility criteria listed in Section III of the RGPs and all applicable general conditions (GCs) in Section IV. For activities authorized by RGPs which do not require submission of a pre-construction notification, (i.e. non-notifying) prior to commencement of the activity, the proponent (i.e., the person and/or the entity performing the work) is responsible for ensuring the activity meets the terms of the applicable RGP, any applicable GCs, and applicable State Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act consistency conditions found on Corps website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/state-general-permits/maine-general-permit/>. Below are the general conditions for the WQC and CZM. WQC and CZM specific conditions are within the RGP in Section III. Applicants should first review the RGPs to determine if a project is eligible for verification under one or more of the RGPs within this document. A Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) is required if a waiver is required by any RGP. Activities that do not meet criteria of these RGPs will require an Individual Permit (IP). Refer to the document titled “*Local Procedures For Submission of a Complete PCN or Application*” for guidance on the permitting process, which can be found on the Corps webpage at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/>. *(This is a pending document and will be published on our website when completed.)*

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) & Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) issued WQC with conditions and the Maine Coastal Program (MCP) concurred to the CZM with conditions for projects located within the boundaries of the State of Maine for the following GPs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 27, 29, 33, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 46, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55, 54, 57, 58, 60, A, B & C. WQC was issued and CZM concurrence was given for the above listed GPs so long as the project proponent follows the below general conditions:**

1. Projects that would result in any direct, permanent salt marsh (tidal wetlands) loss must be reviewed individually for WQC and CZM unless mitigation is required.
2. When operating equipment or otherwise undertaking construction activities in aquatic resources, the project proponent shall:
  - Include in the project plan/design drawings the locations of:
    - the project site with all waters, including wetlands, clearly demarcated;
    - staging areas;
    - construction access points; and
    - disturbance limits.
  - Clean all equipment prior to the equipment arriving on the project site.
  - Have containment booms and/or absorbent material available onsite prior to the commencement of work. In the case of spills, the project proponent shall immediately employ containment booms and/or absorbent material to prevent discharges from reaching waters of the United States.
  - Prior to entering any waters of the United States, inspect all equipment for oil, gas, diesel, anti-freeze, hydraulic fluid, and other petroleum leaks. If the project proponent detects a leak from any equipment, they shall immediately remove the equipment from waters of the U.S.; and within 24 hours of detection of a leak, the project proponent shall repair the equipment in a staging area or move it offsite.
  - Clean all contaminated areas within 8 hours of spill detection and remove contaminated soil from the site within 24 hours or contain it in enclosed containers until it is removed from the site.
3. Project proponents must identify whether a proposed project would occur within an S1 or S2 natural community identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and coordinate with MNAP to address any potential concerns and discuss mitigation as appropriate. Project proponents can use MNAP online resources to learn more about how each natural community is characterized here: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/commsheets.htm>. Project proponents may also contact MNAP directly for questions and coordination here: [maine.nap@maine.gov](mailto:maine.nap@maine.gov).
4. Project proponents must identify whether a proposed project would occur within an Essential Habitat, as listed in 09-137 C.M.R. ch. 8, or Significant Wildlife Habitat, as defined in 38 M.R.S. § 480-B(10), and coordinate with IFW to address any potential concerns and discuss mitigation as appropriate. Project proponents may contact DIFW directly for questions and coordination here: [IFWEnvironmentalReview@maine.gov](mailto:IFWEnvironmentalReview@maine.gov).

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued WQC with general conditions for projects located within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation and Acadia National Park for the following GPs: 3, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 33, 38, 39, 41, 51, 52, 54, 57, 58, 60, A, B, and C. WQC was issued for the above listed GPs so long as the project proponent follows the below general conditions:**

1. Prior to construction, the project proponent shall develop a plan that:
  - Includes time stamped photo-documentation of the baseline conditions (*i.e.*, 50 feet upstream of the project area, within the project area, and 100 feet downstream of the project area).
  - Identifies on a site map:
    - Project site with all waters of the U.S. demarcated. Identify all locations where the project will cross jurisdictional waterbodies and identify the ordinary high-water mark and/or wetland boundaries; the planned work area where wetlands/aquatic resources will be removed, disturbed, and/or protected; buffer zones; and areas to be restored/reclaimed, as well as site access points and other approved work areas. Staging areas and stockpiling of materials and equipment, including locations for containment booms and/or absorbent materials, and/or hazardous materials. Stockpiles (*e.g.*, sediment, soil, or other construction materials) shall be stored at least 50 feet from where it may enter waters of the U.S.
    - Construction access points.
    - Disturbance limits.
    - Locations where site dredging and placement of dredged material activities will occur.
    - Locations where hazardous materials are stored. Identify where containment booms and/or absorbent materials are located for corrective action if needed. Hazardous materials shall be stored in leak-proof containers with appropriate secondary containment measures (*e.g.*, spill berms, dikes, spill containment pallets, absorbent materials). Any silt/sediment fencing.
    - Photo-reference sites. The project proponent shall indicate the directional view and location where photos were taken on the site map.
  - Includes a description of how the site will be restored to pre-construction conditions, including stream hydrology and stability/or aquatic resource composition and diversity of native species to be used. Non-native and invasive species shall not be used for restoration activities.
  - Includes the following as applicable:
    - Cofferdams, temporary berms, pilings, and/or dikes: Describe installation and maintenance practices for any cofferdams, temporary berms, pilings, and/or dikes.
    - Dredging: Describe how contaminated materials will be managed (*e.g.*, sediment testing data and information to identify whether sediments are clean or contaminated), if included in the project dredged area. Describe methods for minimizing dredging impacts (*i.e.*, sedimentation resuspension) in the water column.

- Erosion control: Identify the types and locations of sediment and erosion control features that shall be used onsite, including sediment control fences, haybales, heavy mud mats, and/or other structures. Biodegradable blankets and/or loose-weave mesh shall be used for erosion control matting. Dewatering: Describe methods for dewatering, including the equipment that would be used to conduct the dewatering activities. Identify the locations and timing, including length of time the area is to be dewatered. Explain removal method of the temporary structures and/or fill and what measures will be taken to minimize downstream turbidity and adaptive management measures that will be taken and employed to prevent the draining of waters of U.S., including wetlands.
- Ditching: Explain trenching and material placement techniques and stabilization methods to be employed, as well as timing. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench shall be backfilled with topsoil from the trench, unless other techniques are approved. Include activity timing needs for ditching and stabilization.
- Submit the plan to EPA Region 1 at [R1CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R1CWA401@epa.gov).

During construction, the project proponent shall:

- Visually inspect construction activities daily.
- Prevent sediment, debris, silt, sand, cement, concrete, oil or petroleum, organic materials, or other construction debris or wastes from entering waters of the U.S.
- Maintain documentation onsite that all equipment was cleaned of dirt, mud and other materials prior to arriving on the project site.
- Inspect all equipment daily and prior to entering any waters of the U.S. for oil, gas, diesel, anti-freeze, hydraulic fluid, and other petroleum leaks. If the project proponent detects a leak from any equipment, they shall immediately remove the equipment from waters of the U.S.; and within 24 hours of detection of a leak, repair the equipment in a staging area or move it offsite.
- Limit vegetation clearing and disturbance to waters.
- Limit restoration of the channel bed to pre-existing contours and conditions.
- Photo-document any failures or increased turbidity due to construction activities. Within 24 hours of observing a failure or marked increase in turbidity associated with construction, the project proponent shall remedy and implement any additional adaptive management measures to stabilize the activity and prevent further unauthorized discharges into waters of the U.S. The project proponent shall photo-document the failure (*i.e.*, 50 feet upstream of failure, at the incident site, and at least 100 feet downstream of the failure) and the adaptive management measures taken immediately following implementation. The project proponent shall take photos at the same location and direction as the photos in the plan.
  - Within 48 hours of observing any failure, the project proponent shall provide EPA Region 1 with the above mentioned photo-documentation, and descriptions of all observed failures and remedies.
  - Within three weeks of observing a failure, the project proponent shall provide EPA Region 1 with a description of the impacts and effectiveness of the adaptive management measures.

- Carry out as applicable:
  - Erosion control: Inspect sediment and erosion control measures daily during project implementation and within 12 hours of precipitation events. After construction is complete, stabilization purposes.
  - Dewatering: Assess all dewatering measures within 24 hours after a storm event.

Post construction, the project proponent shall as applicable:

- Submit a copy of the as-builts and a post dredged and disposal report within 45 days of each dredging or disposal event to EPA Region 1 at [R1CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R1CWA401@epa.gov). The project proponent shall include the following items in the post-dredged and disposal report:
  - Dredging and disposal dates.
  - Updated site map displaying the disposal location(s).
  - Dredging and disposal volumes.
  - Water quality monitoring data.
  - Post-dredged bathymetry.
  - Updated site maps displaying any new ditches, spoil piles, widths and depths.

### **SECTION III. MAINE REGIONAL GENERAL PERMITS**

Applicants shall review all Sections of the RGPs prior to utilizing them or submitting a pre-construction notification to the Corps to confirm that the activity, as proposed, complies with all terms and conditions of the 2025 ME RGPs.

#### **Regional General Permits**

1. Aids to Navigation
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
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
17. Hydropower Projects
18. Minor Discharges
19. Minor Dredging
20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
27. Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities
29. Residential Developments
33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
41. Reshaping Existing Drainage and Irrigation Ditches
42. Recreational Facilities
43. Stormwater Management Facilities
45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
46. Discharges in Ditches
48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
54. Living Shorelines
55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances
60. Activities to Improve Passage of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms
- A. Boat Ramps
- B. Dredging, Disposal of Dredged Material, Beach Nourishment, Rock Relocation, Rock & Debris Removal, and Recreational Beach Grading & Raking
- C. Structures and Moorings in Navigable Waters of The U.S.

**RGP 14. Linear Transportation Projects (Authority: Sections 10 and 404):**

Activities required for crossings of waters of the United States associated with the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, driveways, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/3-acre of waters of the United States. Any stream channel modification, including bank stabilization, is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

This RGP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the linear transportation project. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

This RGP cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars.

**Pre-construction notification required if:**

- (1) The loss of waters of the United States exceeds 1/10-acre; or
- (2) There is a discharge of dredged or fill material in a special aquatic site, including wetlands.

Note 1: For linear transportation projects crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of RGP authorization. Linear transportation projects must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 2: Some discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of farm roads or forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

Note 3: For RGP 14 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other RGP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be

used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section V, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

Note 4: A joint pre-application consultation with the Corps and State Resource Agencies is strongly advised for all activities that involve new or replacement tidal crossings.

Note 5: Activities conducted under GPs involving the replacement or installation of new tidal crossings should comply with the State of Maine's CoastWise Approach. See state website for additional information: [https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov/dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023\\_updated.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov/dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023_updated.pdf)

#### **Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC):**

MEDEP and LUPC granted WQC with general conditions and RGP-specific conditions for projects located within the boundaries of the State of Maine. See Section II above for general conditions.

##### *RGP-specific conditions:*

- To the greatest extent practicable, culvert installation must not disturb the stream's natural structure and work in the stream must be minimized.
- The culvert must follow the course and grade of the stream channel to the greatest extent possible.
- Culverts shall be sized to prevent perching and pooling.
- For projects in non-tidal waters, WQC and CZM are only authorized for the discharge of dredged or fill material up to 1/2-acre loss of waters of the U.S. cumulatively across hydrologically connected wetlands or waterbodies.
- For projects in tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot exceed 1/3-acre loss of waters of the United States cumulatively across hydrologically connected wetlands or waterbodies.

- EPA granted WQC with general conditions for projects located within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation and Acadia National Park. See Section II above for general conditions.

**Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act Consistency Determination:**

The MCP concurred with general and RGP-specific conditions with the Corps federal consistency determination for areas that are from the inland boundary of coastal municipalities or unorganized townships or plantations that contain tidal waters seaward to the outer limit of the State’s territorial ownership, three nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured. See Section II above for general conditions and see MEDEP and LUPC WQC RGP-specific conditions above.

#### **SECTION IV: General Conditions**

To qualify for RGP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions (GCs), as applicable. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an RGP.

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 Structures and Fills.
14. Proper Maintenance
15. Single and Complete Project
16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
17. Tribal Rights.
18. Federal Threatened and 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 Regional General Permits
29. Transfer of General Permit Verifications
30. Compliance Certification
31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
32. Pre-Construction Notification
33. PCN Summary Table
34. Essential Fish Habitat
35. Invasive Species
36. General Permit Documentation On-Site
37. Abandonment
38. Expiration of Regional General Permits

## 1. Navigation.

- (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- (b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.
- (c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.
- (d) Aquaculture:

Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA), Aids to Navigation (AtoN), and Charting:

- i. Coordination with the USCG can be completed by contacting via email: [D01-SMB-SecNNE-Waterways@uscg.mil](mailto:D01-SMB-SecNNE-Waterways@uscg.mil).

The applicant shall provide the following information to facilitate completion of the NRA: applicant name/company affiliation, license/lease type (commercial, research, shellfish, kelp, new or modified), nautical chart, detailed drawing with dimensions, time of year, potential lighting/markings, types/materials of structures in water, planned anchoring, cultivation techniques (number of weekly/monthly visits, vessel tending/type), and any other significant information.

If the applicant receives a medium- or high-risk assessment, they shall coordinate with the Corps and apply safety risk mitigations. The USCG will refer the project to the Corps unless the Corps makes the determination that it may proceed.

Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense. For required permitting, the applicant shall contact USCG First District Private Aid Program Manager through [D01-SMB-D01PrivateAtoN@uscg.mil](mailto:D01-SMB-D01PrivateAtoN@uscg.mil). Only actual AtoNs are permitted; floats, balls, markers, mooring balls and 'highflier flags' are not considered Aids to Navigation (AtoN). See: <http://www.usharbormaster.com>.

Applicants shall notify NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Nautical Data Branch Office of Coast Survey to initiate chart and Coast Pilot corrections. See:

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>. Applicants must also notify NOAA on removal. See Note 2 below.

ii. For marine safety information during construction or other significant periods, applicants may use the First District's Marine Safety Information form and email to: [D01-SMB-LNM@uscg.mil](mailto:D01-SMB-LNM@uscg.mil).

**Note 1:** If a PCN is required, applicants shall include documentation of all required coordination with their PCN.

**Note 2:** For nautical chart and coast pilot updates, activities owners should use the status report form at <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/docs/charts-updates/USACE+Permit+Status+Report.pdf>. For aquaculture activities owners should use: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/docs/charts-updates/Artificial+Reef+Aquaculture+Status+Report.pdf> to notify the Office of Coast Survey of the project completion. The form should be emailed to [ocs.ndb@noaa.gov](mailto:ocs.ndb@noaa.gov) and should include a copy of as-built drawings.

**Note 3:** There shall be no unreasonable interference with navigation by the existence or use of any activity authorized by any RGP, and no attempt shall be made by a permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to any activity authorized by any RGP.

## **2. Aquatic Life Movements.**

No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

**Note:** Compliance with this condition may be achieved by ensuring that during in-stream work, the low flow channel/thalweg remains unobstructed during periods of low flow, except when it is necessary to perform the authorized work. Additionally, for work in tidal waters, in-stream controls should be installed in such a manner that do not obstruct fish passage.

## **3. Spawning Areas.**

Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

**4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.**

Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

**5. Shellfish Beds.**

No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by RGPs 4, 48, 55 or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by RGP 27.

Note: Contact the Maine Department of Marine Resource (ME DMR) for further conservation measures if a proposed activity would result in excess turbidity (i.e., dredging) and is located within 100 feet of ME DMR shellfish areas. Reference materials can be found at: <https://dmr-maine.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/mainedmr-molluscan-shellfish-2010/explore?location=43.733484%2C-69.767928%2C10.43> and <https://mgs-maine.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/maine-coastal-marine-geologic-environments/explore>.

**6. Suitable Material.**

No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

**7. Water Supply Intakes.**

No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent stabilization.

**8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments.**

If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

Note: Permanent wetland crossings shall be constructed in such a manner as to prevent excessive ponding or drying on either side of the authorized crossing after completion of the work. Measures shall be taken to maintain the existing hydrology. Such measures may include road cross drains such as culverts that are appropriately sized and placed at intervals to maintain the existing hydrology of the contiguous wetland.

**9. Management of Water Flows.**

To the maximum extent practicable, the preconstruction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream

channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows, including tidal flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, including tidal flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the preconstruction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

#### **10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.**

The activity must comply with applicable FEMA approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

#### **11. Equipment.**

Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

If mats are used to minimize soil disturbance, the affected areas must be returned to pre-construction elevations, and revegetated as appropriate. In circumstances where the use of mats has caused significant soil compaction efforts using techniques (e.g., soil reaeration techniques) to break up the compaction should be employed to return the soil to a pre-construction state prior to returning to pre-construction elevations.

Note 1: Compliance with this condition may be achieved through the implementation of best management practices outline in NAE's "*Construction Mat BMPs*" document available at:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/State-General-Permits/Maine-General-Permit/>.

Note 2: Compliance with this condition may be achieved by ensuring that construction equipment such as barges in tidal waters always provide clearance above the substrate to avoid impacts to SAS during all tides.

Note 3: Compliance with this condition may be achieved by ensuring that construction equipment that would cross or access streams utilizes temporary bridges, spans, construction mats, culverts, or cofferdams to minimize disturbance to the waterway.

#### **12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.**

Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

Note: Compliance with this condition may be achieved by ensuring that all discharge points back into waters of the U.S., including wetlands use appropriate energy dissipaters and erosion and sedimentation control BMPs. Controls that are biodegradable can be left in place but should be removed if not biodegradable. Temporary controls should be removed upon completion of work, but not before all exposed soil and other fills and any work waterward of the OHWM are permanently stabilized. Once permanently stabilized, temporary controls should be removed as soon as possible. Sediment and debris collected by these controls should be removed and placed at an upland location and in a manner that will prevent its later erosion into a waterway or wetland.

### **13. Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills.**

Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Note: Compliance with this general condition may be achieved through the use of underlying temporary fills with geotextile fabric which may help to facilitate the restoration to pre-construction elevations.

### **14. Proper Maintenance.**

Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable RGP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an RGP authorization.

Note: Derelict, degraded or abandoned piles and sheet piles in navigable waters of the U.S., except for those inside existing work footprints for piers, must be completely removed, cut and/or driven to three feet below the substrate to prevent interference with navigation. Existing creosote piles that are affected by project activities shall be completely removed if practicable. In areas of fine-grained substrates, piles must be removed by the direct, vibratory or clamshell pull method to minimize sedimentation and turbidity impacts and prevent interference with navigation from cut piles. Removed piles shall be disposed of in an upland location landward of MHW or OHW and not in wetlands, tidal wetlands, their substrate, or mudflats.

### **15. Single and Complete Project.**

The activity must be a single and complete project. The same RGP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

### **16. Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

(a) No RGP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible

inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed RGP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the pre-construction notification with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the RGP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed RGP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

**Note:** See also: General Condition 33(c), Additional PCN Requirement (Wild and Scenic Rivers).

## **17. Tribal Rights.**

No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

## **18. Federal Threatened and Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any RGP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any RGP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of “effects of the action” for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has

been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

Note: Federal agencies should refer to “*Multiple Federal Agency & Lead Federal Agency Best Practices*” when a Corps permit is required, which can be found on the Corps webpage at: [www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/). *(This is a pending document and will be published on our website when completed.)*

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the RGPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an RGP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat

modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed RGP activity, the non-federal permittee should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the pre-construction notification required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed RGP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed RGP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed RGP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete preconstruction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed RGP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

## **19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.**

The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an RGP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

## **20. Historic Properties.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any RGP which may have the potential to cause effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed RGP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that

the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

Note: Federal agencies should refer to “*Multiple Federal Agency & Lead Federal Agency Best Practices*” when a Corps permit is required, which can be found on the Corps webpage at: [www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/). *(This is a pending document and will be published on our website when completed.)*

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the RGP activity might have the potential to cause effects on 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. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed RGP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the pre-construction notification and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed RGP activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed RGP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects on historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the

non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

Note: To comply with GC 20 above, the *State Historic Preservation Office & Tribal Scoping Request* template should be submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Federally Recognized Tribes and included in the PCN submission to the Corps, which can be found on the Corps website. Also, the document titled “*Best Practices for Historic Properties & Cultural Resources*” is also found on the Corps website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>. *(The above documents are pending and will be published on our website when completed. Please continue to notify the MHPC and THPOs through current practices.)*

## **21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.**

Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archaeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an RGP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## **22. Designated Critical Resource Waters.**

Critical resource waters include, NOAA managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district

engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by RGPs 7, 12, 17, 29, 39, 42, 43, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For RGPs 3, 13, 15, 18, 19, 27, 33, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these RGPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

### **23. Mitigation.**

The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10 -acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-

by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, because streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for RGP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the RGPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the pre-construction notification is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the RGP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the RGP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the RGPs. For example, if an RGP has an acreage limit of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre, it cannot be used to authorize any RGP activity resulting in the loss of greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an RGP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the RGPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the RGP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may

be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

Note 1: In addition to the requirements of GC 23 above - *Mitigation*, compensatory mitigation requirements for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. will be evaluated in accordance with the current *New England District Compensatory Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures* (April 26, 2024) and any superseding versions thereof (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/>).

Note 2: Applicants are encouraged to utilize the Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) in order to determine which in-lieu fee programs and/or mitigation banks have a sufficient amount of appropriate and available credits which they may propose to use to offset their proposed activity's unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands. RIBITS is available at: <https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:2:.....>

#### **24. Safety of Impoundment Structures.**

To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

#### **25. Water Quality.**

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an RGP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by the certifying authority for the issuance of the RGP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States in order for the activity to be authorized by an RGP.

(b) If the RGP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an RGP with CWA section 401, the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States is not authorized by an RGP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge into waters of the United States, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge into waters of the United States is not authorized by an RGP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality

certification requirement has been satisfied (i.e., by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver and completion of the Section 401(a)(2) process).

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

Note 1: For information concerning how to apply to EPA for a Water Quality Certification for activities located within a Indian Reservation and Acadia National Park, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/resources-when-epa-acts-certifying-authority-under-section-401> and/or contact: [R1CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R1CWA401@epa.gov).

Note 2: For information concerning how to apply to LUPC or MEDEP for a Water Quality Certification, please see: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/wqc/>.

## **26. Coastal Zone Management.**

In coastal states where an RGP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an RGP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

Note 1: If an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence is required, applicants should submit a determination of consistency (see 15 CFR 930 Subpart C) or a consistency determination to the state (see 15 CFR 930 subpart D) at the same time as the PCN is submitted to the Corps, or shortly thereafter.

Note 2: For information concerning how to apply to the Maine Office of Community Affairs for a coastal zone management consistency certification, please see: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/programs/maine-coastal-program/federal-consistency-review>.

## **27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.**

The activity must comply with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

## **28. Use of Multiple Regional General Permits.**

The use of more than one RGP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The total acreage loss of waters of the United States for a single and complete project cannot exceed the acreage limit of the RGP with the highest specified acreage limit when multiple RGPs are used to authorize an activity.

(b) If only one of the RGPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States for that single and complete project cannot exceed that specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under RGP 14 (which has an acreage limit of 1/3 acre in tidal waters), with associated bank stabilization authorized by RGP 13 (which does not have a specified acreage limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(c) If two or more of the RGPs used to authorize the single and complete project have specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by each of those RGPs cannot exceed the specified acreage limits of each of those RGPs. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under RGP 39 (which has a 1/2-acre limit), and the single and complete project includes the filling of a ditch authorized by RGP 46 (which has a 1-acre limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the construction of the commercial development under RGP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States caused by the combination of the RGP 39 and RGP 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

## **29. Transfer of General Permit Verifications.**

If the permittee sells the property associated with a regional general permit verification, the permittee may transfer the regional general permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the regional general permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this regional general permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transferee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

### **30. Compliance Certification.**

Each permittee who receives an RGP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The successful completion of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the RGP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the RGP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation. The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

### **31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.**

If an RGP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an RGP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written RGP verification.

Note: Refer to the New England District's Section 408 Program webpage that can be found at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408/>. See also: Regional Condition 33(b), Additional PCN Requirement (Federal Projects).

### **32. Pre-Construction Notification.**

- (a) Timing. Where required by the terms of the RGP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information

necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the RGP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an RGP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the RGP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Pre-Construction Notification: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific RGP or RGP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the RGP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental

effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other RGP(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require preconstruction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an RGP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non PCN RGP activities into RGP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the RGP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of waters, wetlands, and other special aquatic sites on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate. For RGP 27 activities that require PCNs because of other general conditions or regional conditions imposed by division engineers, see Note 2 of that RGP;

Note: To comply with the above GC 32(5), the following methodologies should be utilized:

- (a) Wetlands should be delineated in accordance with the Corps Wetlands Delineation Manual and the most recent Northcentral/Northeast Regional Supplement. Wetland delineation and jurisdiction information can be found at: [www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/jurisdiction-and-wetlands](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/jurisdiction-and-wetlands) and <https://www.usace.army.mil/Media/Announcements/Article/4262089/1-august-2025-us-army-corps-of-engineers-enhances-aquatic-resource-delineation/>.
- (b) Refer to the “Best Practices for Jurisdictional Determinations and Wetland Delineations,” which can be found on the Corps webpage at:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/>. *(This is a pending document and will be published on our website when completed.)*

(c) The ordinary high water mark should be delineated (on both sides) when streams, rivers, non-tidal open waters are present on the project site. Ordinary high water mark guidance can be found in RGL 05-05

(<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utis/getfile/collection/p16021coll9/id/1253>).

For complex, atypical, or problematic sites see:

<https://www.erd.usace.army.mil/Media/Fact-Sheets/Fact-Sheet-Article-View/Article/486085/ordinary-high-water-mark-ohwm-research-development-and-training/>.

(d) Vegetated shallows should be delineated when present on the project site.

Vegetated shallow survey guidance and maps can be found on the Corps webpage at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Jurisdiction-and-Wetlands/>.

(e) All Essential Fish Habitat should be delineated when present on the project site. EFH survey guidance can be found in the current EFH programmatic, which can be found on the Corps webpage at

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Essential-Fish-Habitat/>.

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the compensatory mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For RGP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the RGP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For RGP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an RGP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the preconstruction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

Note: Refer to the “*Best Practices for 408 Procedures*”, which can be found on the Corps webpage at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/state-general-permits/maine-general-permit/>.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The regional general permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 4342) should be used for RGP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. All PCN forms shall be submitted to the Maine Project Office via email: [cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil).

(d) Agency Coordination:

(1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity’s compliance with the terms and conditions of the RGPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity’s adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for:

- (i) all RGP activities that require preconstruction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States;
- (ii) RGP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and
- (iii) RGP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters.
- (iv) All activities that require a waiver.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). These agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district

engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity’s compliance with the terms and conditions of the RGPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies’ concerns were considered.

(4) In cases where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants will submit necessary documents and files to the Corps electronically via email at [cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil) or using the RRS at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

(6) The USACE will require additional information not listed here be provided with the PCN if necessary for compliance with other federal laws.

**33. PCN Summary Table.**

*The following activities may require a PCN regardless of the terms of the applicable RGP. Please read the applicable GC to determine if a PCN is required.*

Exceedance of loss thresholds within streams, non-tidal and tidal wetlands, tidal submerged aquatic vegetation, mudflats, and intertidal areas	See GC 33 - a
Located within or the vicinity of a Federal Project	See GC 33 - b
Located within or the vicinity of a Wild and Scenic River	See GC 33 - c
Involving discharges of temporary fill material	See GC 33 - d
Located within Vernal Pools	See GC 33 - e
Involving slip lining	See GC 33 - f
Activities within Time-of-Year Restrictions	See GC 33 - g
Located within the Saint John and Saint Croix River basins (Maine)	See GC 33 - h
Authorized by RGP 48, Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities and within the State of Maine > 5 acres	See GC 33 - i
Additional aquatic resource protection - activities within Important Rare Resources	See GC 33 - j
Involving stream crossings	See GC 33 - k

(a) Additional PCN Requirement (Specific Resources):

A PCN is required for any proposed activities which would result in the loss of waters of the United States<sup>3</sup> that exceed the listed thresholds to the following aquatic resources if not already required by the RGP.

<b>Aquatic Resource:</b>	<b>Threshold:</b>
Non-tidal Wetlands	4,356 square feet (0.1 acre)
Tidal and Non-Tidal Stream	200 linear feet or 0.03 acre (whichever is less)
Tidal Wetland	500 square feet
Tidal Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	25 square feet
Mudflat	1,000 square feet
Intertidal	1,000 square feet

(b) Additional PCN Requirement (Federal Projects):

A PCN is required for any proposed activities which would involve the temporary or permanent occupation of, or alteration of, a federal project (including, but not limited to, a levee, dike, floodwall, channel, anchorage, breakwater, seawall, bulkhead, jetty, wharf, pier, or other work built or maintained but not necessarily owned by the United States). This includes all structures and work in, over, or under a Corps' federal navigation project (FNP) or in the FNP's buffer zone. The buffer zone is an area that extends from the horizontal limits of the FNP to a distance three times the FNP's authorized depth.

The activity may also require review and approval by the Corps pursuant to 33 USC 408 (Section 408 Permission). The applicant may reach out to the points of contact listed here: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408/> and consult the National Channel Framework mapper:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b413139f18c046009ebcf62abea941dd/page/Map/>.

For activities which require a Section 408 permission, verification under a RGP will not be issued prior to the decision the Section 408 permission requires. Any structure or work constructed in an FNP, or its buffer zone shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense prior to any future Corps dredging or hydrographic surveys.

Applicants should contact the Corps Real Estate Division (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Real-Estate-Division/>) at (978) 318-8585 for work that would occur on or would potentially affect a Corps property (or properties) and/or Corps-controlled easements. Work may not commence on Corps properties and/or Corps-controlled easements until they have received any required Corps real estate documents demonstrating site-specific permission to perform work.

A PCN is not required if an applicant has previously obtained a Section 408 permission for their proposed activities, or a determination from the Corps that a Section 408

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<sup>3</sup> See Section VI – Definitions and Acronyms for loss of Waters of the United States.

permission is not required for their proposed activities, and the proposed activities qualify for a non-notifying RGP.

(c) Additional PCN Requirement (Wild and Scenic Rivers):

A PCN is required under GC 16, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and for: 1) any proposed activities which would be located in and within 0.25 mile up or downstream of a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segment, or in tributaries within 0.25 mile of a WSR segment; 2) any proposed activities which would be located in wetlands within 0.25 mile of a WSR segment; and 3) any proposed activities that have the potential to alter free-flowing characteristics in a WSR segment. Applicants should utilize <http://www.rivers.gov/> for the most up-to-date WSR designations.

Note: Applicants may coordinate with the Federal agency that has direct management responsibility of the WSR segment or tributary their proposed activity would be within 0.25 mile of prior to submitting a PCN to the Corps. If that Federal agency determines that the proposed activity would not adversely affect the subject WSR, a PCN is not required to be submitted.

(d) Additional PCN Requirement (Temporary Fills):

A PCN is required for any proposed activities that would involve the discharge of temporary fill (33 CFR 323.2(e) and (f)) greater than 1/10-acre to be left in place in non-tidal wetlands for more than one growing season. The growing season is generally defined as April 1 to September 30 (See the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region* for more information about determining growing season.

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Jurisdiction-and-Wetlands/Wetland-Delineation-Manual/>).

Note 1: The Corps will decide on a case-by-case basis, after evaluating site-specific and activity-specific circumstances whether temporary construction mats proposed for use are considered as temporary fill.

Note 2: For linear projects, crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of RGP authorization (33 CFR 330.2(i)). Therefore, each crossing of a water of the U.S., including wetlands could have up to 0.1 acre of temporary fill without requiring the submittal of a PCN.

(e) Additional PCN Requirement (Vernal pools):

A PCN is required for any proposed discharges of dredged or fill material within a vernal pool depression which has been determined to be a water of the U.S. For information

on vernal pools, please visit:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Vernal-Pools/>

Note: Please note that the state may regulate additional vernal pools that the Corps does not.

(f) Additional PCN Requirement (Slip-Lining):

A PCN is required for any proposed activity which involves slip-lining a stream crossing that is not currently meeting the stream crossing BMPs found in GC 33(k) below (e.g., slip-lining and invert-lining).

(g) Additional PCN Requirement (In Water Work Time-of-Year Windows and Restrictions):

In-water work (including physical alterations) within non-tidal and tidal waters, shall be conducted during the following time-of-year (TOY) work windows (see below table). Approval to work outside the TOY work windows must be obtained from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) using the form located at: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/permits/pbr/index.html> for work in non-tidal waters or from the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR): <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/permits/pbr/index.html> for work in tidal waters. If in-water work cannot be completed during the TOY work window or approval to work outside the TOY work window from IFW or DMR is not obtained, then the project requires a PCN and written verification removing the below requirements. If a PCN is required, due to RGP thresholds and/or other general and/or regional conditions, then the state’s approval for working outside the TOY restriction shall be submitted with the PCN.

	TOY Work Restriction	TOY Work Window
Non-tidal Waters	Oct. 2 to Jul. 14	Jul. 15 to Oct 1.
Tidal Waters	Apr. 16 to Nov. 14	Nov. 15 to Apr. 15

Any proposed activity located in waters of the U.S. (excluding wetlands) shall be completed entirely “in-the-dry” or be isolated from active flows/the water column using temporary measures (i.e., cofferdams, sandbags, flume pipes, etc.) to the maximum extent practicable. The term “in-the-dry” means work that is done under dry conditions, e.g., work behind cofferdams or when the stream or tide is waterward of the work.

(h) Additional PCN Requirement (Saint John and Saint Croix River basins):

A PCN is required for any proposed work within the Saint John and Saint Croix River basins that requires approval of the International Joint Commission. In addition, a PCN is required if any temporary or permanent use, obstruction, or diversion of international boundary waters could affect the natural flow or levels of waters on the Canadian side

of the boundary; or if any construction or maintenance of remedial works, protective works, dams, or other obstructions in waters downstream from boundary waters could raise the natural level of water on the Canadian side of the boundary.

(i) Additional PCN Requirement (RGP 48, Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities):

A PCN is required for any activities proposed under RGP 48 which would install gear for a commercial shellfish operation within a site greater than 5 acres in size.

(j) Additional PCN Requirement (Important or Rare Resources):

A PCN is required if a discharge of dredged or fill material is proposed within any of the following aquatic resources or resource types identified as specifically important or rare within the State of Maine that warrant additional protections:

1. Lakes and tributaries that support arctic char and lake whitefish; or
2. Bogs and fens

(k) Additional PCN Requirement (Activities that do not meet the Stream Crossing BMPs):

A PCN is required for any proposed stream crossing activities that cannot comply with the below “Stream Crossing Best Management Practices (BMPs)” unless the district engineer provides the applicant written verification removing the below requirements.

1. The width of the crossing shall be greater than or equal to 1.2 times the bank full width.
2. The crossing shall be embedded greater than or equal to 2 feet and/or at least 25 percent of the conveyance’s height.
3. The crossing shall be constructed with a natural bottom substrate, as applicable.
4. The crossing shall match the gradient (i.e., slope) of the natural stream channel profile.
5. The crossing shall meet an openness ratio of greater than 0.82 feet.

For proposed stream crossings that cannot implement the above BMPs, the applicant should first coordinate with the appropriate state office to obtain required or recommended alternate stream crossing BMPs, prior to submitting a PCN to the Corps. If a stream crossing is designed to meet the standards required or recommended by the appropriate state agency for which the proposed activity is located within, those standards can serve in-lieu of these BMPs and submittal of a PCN is not required.

Note: Below are links to the stream crossing standards/guidelines for Maine that have published such standards/guidelines. Applicants are highly encouraged to contact their state for additional information regarding those requirements and/or recommendations, as state requirements may be more stringent than the above listed BMPs.

Maine Interagency Stream Crossing Guidelines:  
(<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>) - (*This is a pending document and will be published on our website when completed.*)

CoastWise:  
([https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov.dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023\\_updated.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dmr/sites/maine.gov.dmr/files/inline-files/CoastWiseManualJuly2023_updated.pdf))

### **34. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):**

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is defined as those waters and substrates necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity (16 U.S.C. 1802).

The following GPs have been determined to result in no more than minimal adverse effects, provided the permittee complies with all terms and conditions of the RGP as applicable to the activity, including all activity thresholds and activity-specific Conservation Recommendations (CRs) identified in the current EFH and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Programmatic Consultation

(<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Essential-Fish-Habitat/>).

For non-Federal applicants whose proposed activities would be located within EFH and that do not require a PCN per the language of the RGP or per any other general or regional condition (i.e., non-notifying), the applicant shall review the current EFH and FWCA Programmatic Consultation

(<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Essential-Fish-Habitat/>) to ensure their proposed activity complies with all applicable CRs.

- a. A PCN is required for any proposed project which would exceed the activity thresholds that are included within the current EFH and FWCA Programmatic Consultation. Any proposed project that exceeds an activity threshold requires preliminary coordination/project-specific consultation.
- b. For all activities which do not exceed the activity-based thresholds included within the current EFH and FWCA Programmatic Consultation, the project proponent shall implement the activity-specific applicable CRs. If the applicable CRs cannot be implemented, a PCN must be submitted to the Corps, and work may not commence until the Corps verifies the project under the applicable RGP(s).

Federal applicants should follow their own procedures for compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Note 1: For activities proposed for authorization by an RGP that requires the submittal of a PCN, applicants are encouraged to review the current EFH and FWCA Programmatic

Consultation and design their proposed activities with the activity-based thresholds and incorporate applicable CRs.

Note 2: Applicants can utilize the NMFS EFH mapper to determine if their proposed activities are located within EFH: <https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/>. Applicants can also utilize the current EFH and FWCA Programmatic Consultation (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Essential-Fish-Habitat/>) for guidance on non-tidal waterbodies with diadromous fish.

### **35. Invasive Species:**

The introduction, spread, or the increased risk of invasion of invasive plant or animal species on the project site, into new or disturbed areas, or into areas adjacent to the project site caused by the site work shall be prevented. Native, non-invasive vegetation must be used for revegetation unless otherwise authorized by the Corps, and shall not contain any species listed in Appendix K (“Invasive and Other Unacceptable Plant Species”) of the current *New England District Compensatory Mitigation Standard Operating Procedures* and any superseding versions thereof (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/>). Information about how to avoid the spread of invasive species can be found at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Invasive-Species>.

### **36. General Permit Documentation On-Site:**

The permittee shall ensure that a copy of their verification letter (for notifying GPs only) and applicable RGP with all applicable GCs are at the worksite whenever work is being performed, and that all personnel performing work are fully aware of its terms and conditions.

### **37. Abandonment:**

If the permittee decides to abandon the activity authorized by a RGP, unless such abandonment is merely the transfer of property to another party, the permittee may be required to restore the area to the satisfaction of the Corps.

### **38. Expiration of Regional General Permits:**

If an RGP is not modified or reissued within five years of its effective date, it automatically expires and becomes null and void. Activities which have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon an RGP will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of an RGP's expiration, modification, or revocation, unless discretionary authority has been exercised on a case-by-case basis to modify, suspend, or revoke the authorization. Activities completed under the authorization of an RGP which was in effect at the time the activity was completed continue to be authorized by that RGP.

## **Section V: District Engineer's Decision**

1. In reviewing the pre-construction notification for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the Maine General Permit will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or maybe contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific General Permit, the district engineer should issue the General Permit verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that General Permit, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require pre-construction notifications to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the RGP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by a RGP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the RGP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.
2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the RGP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by a RGP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the RGP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the RGP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the RGP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the RGP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add activity-specific conditions to the RGP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.
3. If the proposed RGP activity includes a loss of waters greater than the thresholds outlined in the New England Compensatory Mitigation Guidance, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the pre-construction notification. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for RGP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. However, compensatory mitigation shall not be required for activities authorized by RGP 27 because those activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services (see the text of RGP 27). The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other

mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal when determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed RGP activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the proposed activity complies with the terms and conditions of the RGP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the RGP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the pre-construction notification, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the RGP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the RGP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the RGP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the RGP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the RGP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed RGP activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either:
  - (a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the RGP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit;
  - (b) that the activity is authorized under the RGP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or
  - (c) that the activity is authorized under the RGP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day pre-construction notification review period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 16, 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not

practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

**Further Information:**

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an RGP.
2. RGPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. RGPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. RGPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. RGPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

## **SECTION VI: Definitions and Acronyms**

Best management practices (BMPs): Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

Compensatory mitigation: The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Currently serviceable: Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Direct effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge: The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Ecological reference: A model used to plan and design an aquatic ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under RGP 27. An ecological reference may be based on: (1) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region; (2) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type that existed in the region in the past; and/or (3) indigenous and local ecological knowledge that apply to the aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type (i.e., a cultural ecosystem). Cultural ecosystems are ecosystems that have developed under the joint influence of natural processes and human management activities (e.g., fire stewardship). An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Establishment (creation): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

High Tide Line: The line of intersection of the land with the water’s surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the

absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

**Independent utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete nonlinear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**Indirect effects:** Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

**Loss of waters of the United States:** Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an RGP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Nature-based solutions:** Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

**Navigable waters:** Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329. **Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the RGPs, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of “open waters” include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. **Ordinary High Water Mark:** The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year round during a typical year.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit. **Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms.

**Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions. Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource.

Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Restoration: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Riffle and pool complex: Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

Riparian areas: Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

Shellfish seeding: The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

Single and complete linear project: A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of RGP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or

individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Single and complete non-linear project:** For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an RGP authorization.

**Special Aquatic Sites (SAS):** means wetlands, mudflats, vegetated shallows, coral reefs, riffle and pool complexes, sanctuaries, and refuges as defined at 40 CFR 230.40 through 230.45 and 33 CFR 330.2.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment. **Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff. **Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock, inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. The substrate may also be comprised, in part, of organic matter, such as large or small wood fragments, leaves, algae, and other organic materials. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream’s course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the

gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

Tribal lands: Any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

Tribal rights: Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.  
Vegetated shallows:

Vegetated shallows: Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

Waterbody: For purposes of the RGPs, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).