



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

January 22, 2021

Regulatory Division
File Number NAE-2020-03177

Joseph Samolis
City of Middletown
Planning, Conservation & Development
245 deKoven Drive
Suite 202
Middletown, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Samolis:

We are currently investigating an alleged violation in your municipality that involves the discharge of fill into waters and wetlands under Corps of Engineers jurisdiction for Founders Ridge Residential Development at Ridgewood Road. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of our jurisdiction and the Federal role in regulating work in aquatic resource areas.

We are sending you the enclosed material so that local officials reviewing projects that involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in inland waters under Corps jurisdiction can inform developers, landowners, consultants, engineers, contractors and the like of Federal laws that regulate their projects. If local officials would disseminate this information during the planning, design and approval process, they could help prevent violations that could adversely affect these projects and be costly and time consuming for the project proponent to correct. Please refer to the attached Corps of Engineers Jurisdiction Fact Sheet for a summary of our authority, definitions and permit requirements.

Please feel free to distribute this information to others. We would appreciate it if town officials inform those project proponents that they come in contact with that a Corps permit may be necessary for their proposed or ongoing activities that involve the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters or wetlands. We greatly appreciate the efforts of local officials who take the time to understand the scope of Corps jurisdiction and inform project proponents accordingly. This serves the public by helping to protect the nation's water resources and helps project proponents to avoid unnecessary delay for review of projects that may require Federal authorization.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter, please contact me at (978) 318-8306.

Sincerely,

Cori M. Rose, PWS
Senior Project Manager
Regulatory Division

Attachments

cc:

B. Golembiewski CT DEEP LWRD (via email)



REGULATORY FACT SHEET

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Under **Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** (33 U.S.C. 403), a Corps permit is required for all work, including structures, seaward of the mean high water line in navigable waters of the U.S. In New England, for purposes of Section 10, navigable waters of the U.S. are those subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, as well as a few of the major rivers used to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Under **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)** (33 U.S.C. 1344), a Department of the Army (DA) permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required for activities which involve the **discharge of dredged or fill material** into waters of the United States (U.S.), including not only navigable waters of the U.S. but also inland rivers, lakes, streams, and **wetlands**. In inland waters, Corps jurisdiction under the CWA extends landward to the **ordinary high water mark** or the **landward limit** of any wetlands, whichever is more extensive.

The term **“wetlands,”** as used above, is defined by Federal regulations as “... those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions...”(33 CFR 328.3(b), November 13, 1986 Federal Register). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, and bogs. Forested and meadow areas that lack standing water can also be wetlands. The Corps uses a three-parameter method to define the wetland/upland boundary. Please note that such boundaries might not be the same as wetland boundaries determined by state or local regulations, since those agencies sometimes use different criteria to delineate wetlands.

The term **“discharge”** is defined as the addition of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. This may include the redepositing of wetland soils such as occurs during mechanized land clearing activities, including grubbing, grading, and excavation.

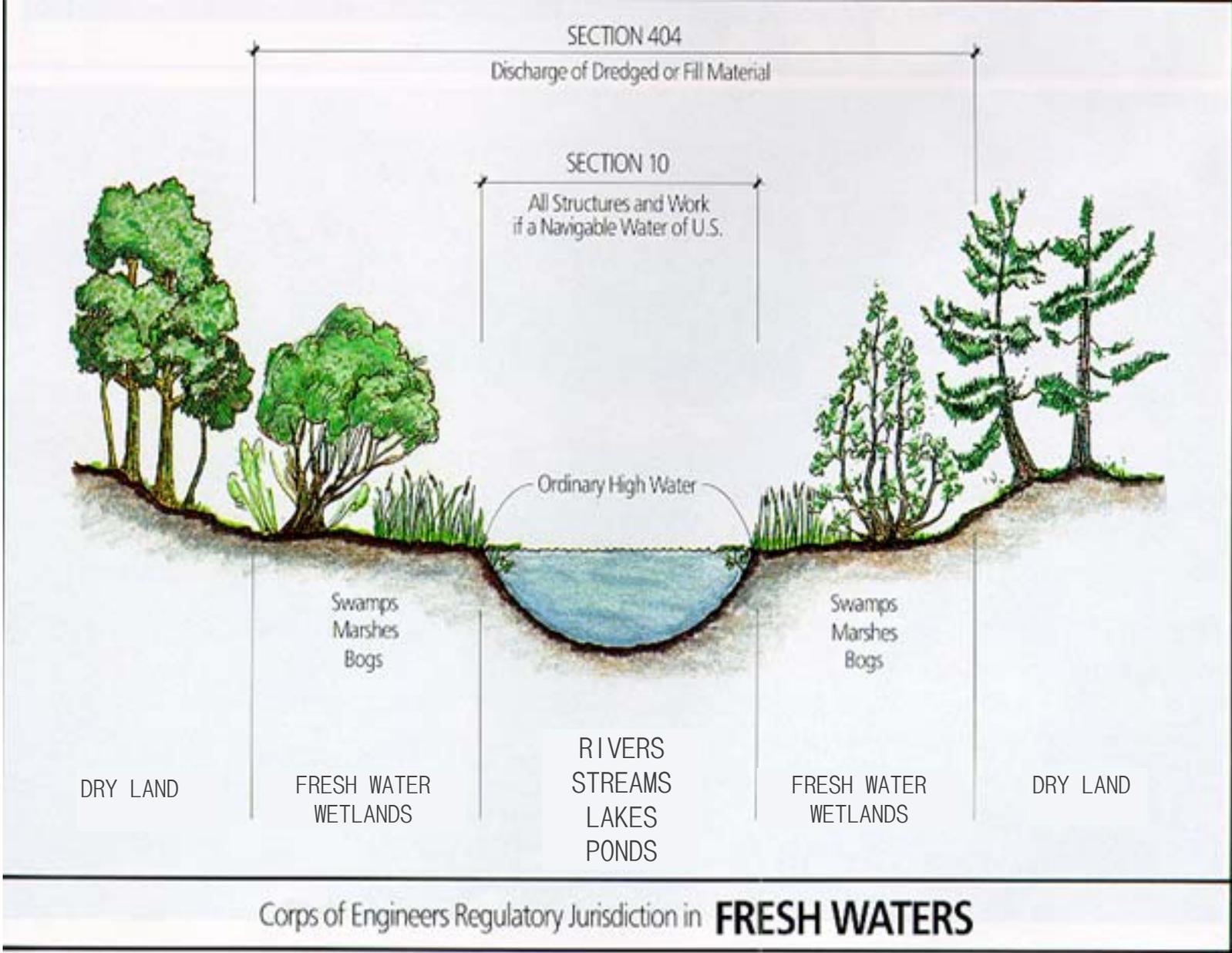
The term **“fill material”** is defined by Federal regulation as “(1)...material placed in waters of the U.S. where the material has the effect of: (i) Replacing any portion of a water of the U.S. with dry land; or (ii) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the U.S. (2) Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the U.S. (3) The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.” (33 CFR 323.2 (e), December 30, 2008 Federal Register). The EPA is responsible for regulating discharges of wastes and other pollutants.

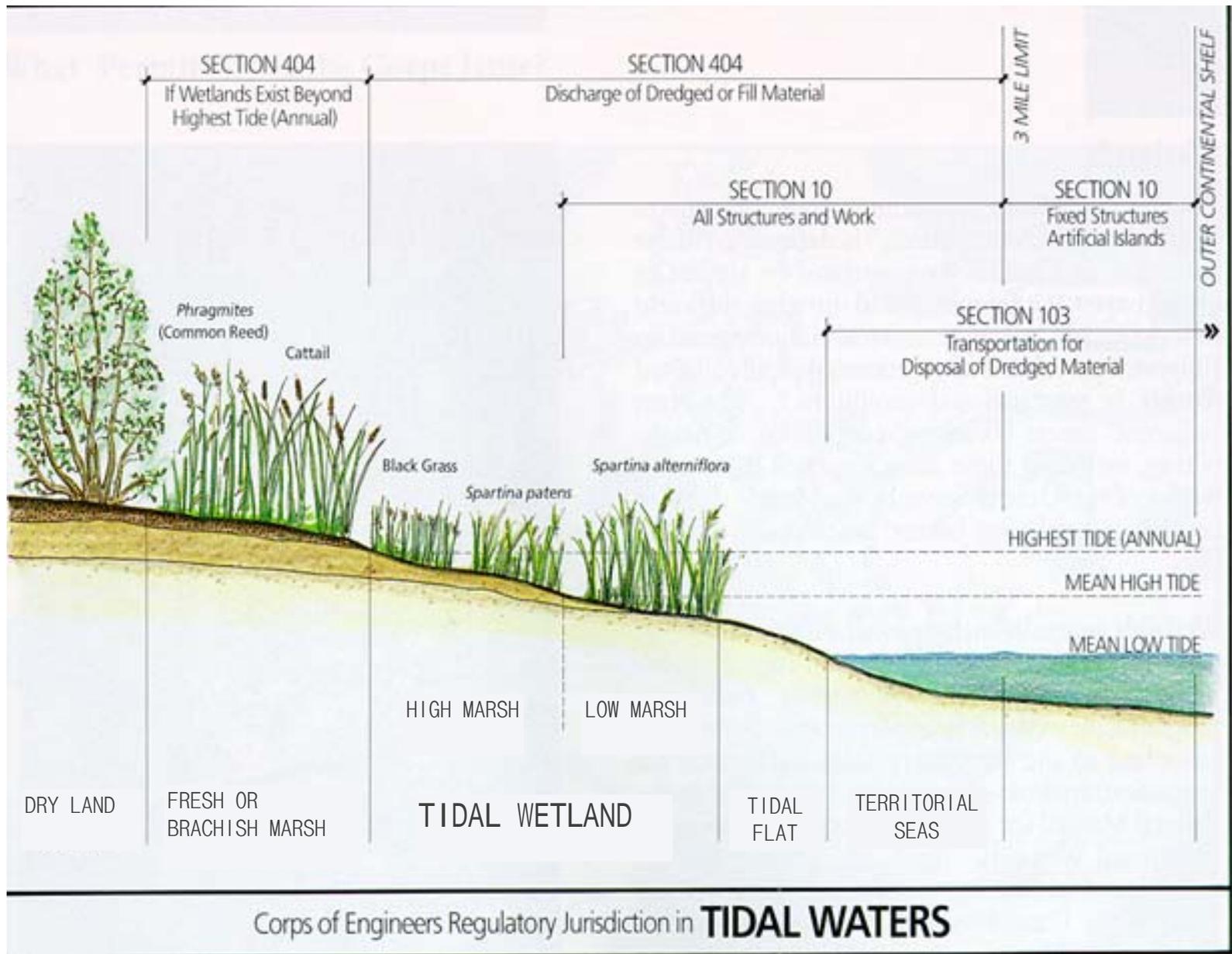
You must obtain authorization for any work within Corps jurisdiction before you can legally undertake such work. Corps permits are a limited form of authorization containing a stated set of terms and conditions which must be complied with. Before starting any work in waters of the U.S., people doing such work or having such work done for them should: (1) be certain that a DA permit has been obtained or is not needed and (2) familiarize themselves and their contractor with the terms and conditions of the permit. Performing any work which requires, but is not authorized by, a Corps permit, or failing to comply with the terms and conditions of a Corps permit, may subject the developer, the landowner or other responsible party, including the contractor, to criminal and/or civil liability.

General Permits (GPs) have been issued for each New England state. The GPs are located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory >> State General Permits. Projects in Corps jurisdiction not authorized by a GP require an Individual Permit (IP). See the GPs for each state for more details. Violations of the CWA are punishable by civil and/or criminal fines and possible imprisonment. In addition, an order may be issued for (1) complete removal of the unauthorized work or fill and (2) restoration of the area to pre-construction conditions.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

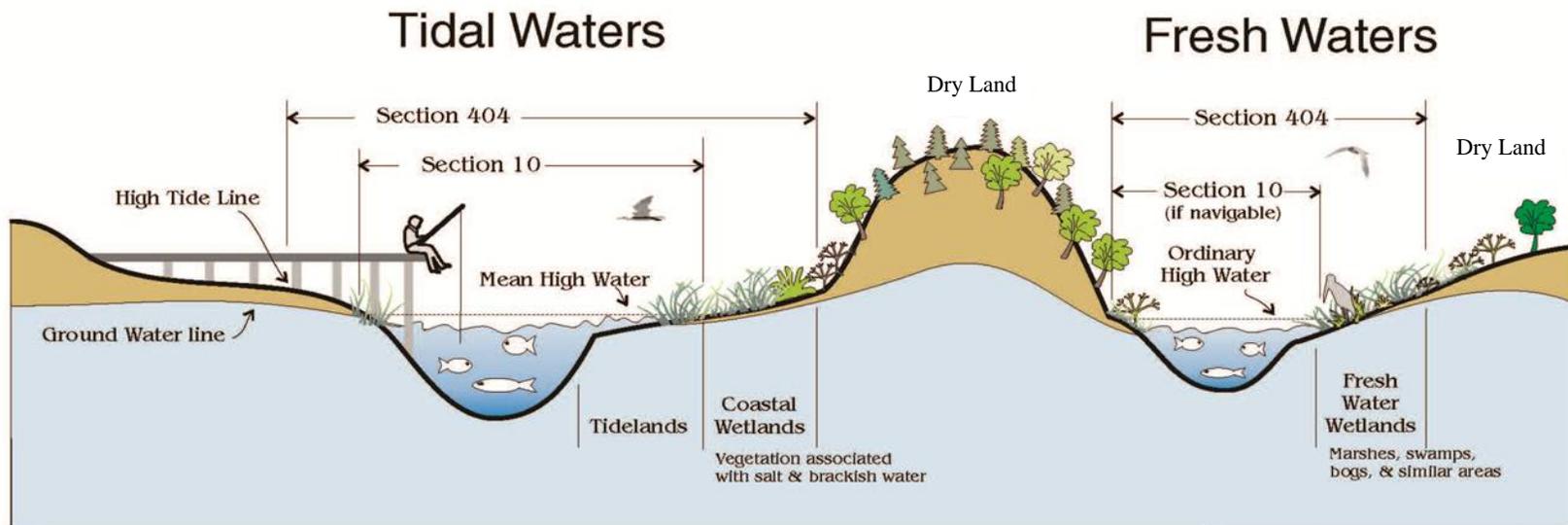
696 VIRGINIA ROAD, CONCORD, MA 07142-2751
WWW.NAE.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY





Corps of Engineers Regulatory Jurisdiction in **TIDAL WATERS**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY JURISDICTION



Typical examples
of regulated activities

Section 103
Ocean Discharge
of Dredged Material

Ocean discharges of
dredged material

Section 404

Disposal of Dredged or Fill Material
(all waters of the U.S.)

All filling activities, utility lines, outfall structures,
road crossings, beach nourishment, riprap,
jetties, some excavation activities, etc.

Section 10

All Structures and Work
(navigable waters)

Dredging, marinas, piers, wharves,
floats, intake / outtake pipes,
pilings, bulkheads, ramps, fills,
overhead transmission lines, etc.

Applicant: General Public, State of Connecticut

Effective Date: August 19, 2016

Expiration Date: August 19, 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GENERAL PERMITS FOR THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
&
LANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE
BOUNDARIES OF AN INDIAN RESERVATION¹**

The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) hereby issues twenty-one (21) General Permits (GPs), listed below, for activities subject to Corps jurisdiction in waters of the United States (U.S.), including navigable waters, within boundaries of the State of Connecticut and lands located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation. These GPs are issued in accordance with Corps regulations at 33 CFR 320 - 332 [see 33 CFR 325.5(c)(1)], and authorizes activity-specific categories of work that are similar in nature and cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental impacts. These GPs will provide protection to the aquatic environment and the public interest while effectively authorizing activities that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

GENERAL CRITERIA

In order for activities to qualify for these GPs, they must meet the terms and eligibility criteria and stipulations listed in Appendix A – General Permits as well as the Appendix B General Conditions.

Projects may qualify for the following:

- Self-Verification (inland) - Self -Verification Notification Form (SVNF) is required
- Self-Verification (coastal) - SVNF NOT required. Corps relies on CT DEEP, OLISP submittals.
- Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) -
 - Inland - Application to and written approval from the Corps is required.
 - Coastal - Notification to Corps provided by CT DEEP, OLISP or by applicants as necessary. Written approval from the Corps is required.

If your project is ineligible for Self-Verification (SV), it may be screened under PCN or may require an Individual Permit. The thresholds for activities eligible for Self-Verification and PCN are defined in Appendix A. These GPs do not affect the Corps Individual Permit review process or activities exempt from Corps regulation.

¹ Indian reservation lands are considered a sovereign nation, and are therefore acknowledged separately from the State of Connecticut for purposes of this General Permit.

Connecticut General Permits

An activity is authorized under GPs 1-21 below only if that activity and the permittee satisfy all of the GP's terms and conditions.

1. Aids to navigation & temporary recreational structures
2. Repair or maintenance of existing currently serviceable, authorized or grandfathered structures/fills, removal of structures
3. Moorings
4. Pile-supported structures & floats, including boat lifts/hoists and other miscellaneous Structures & work
5. Boat ramps and marine railways
6. Utility line activities
7. Dredging, transport & disposal of dredged material, beach nourishment, rock removal & rock relocation
8. Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction of bridges
9. Shoreline and bank stabilization projects
10. Aquatic habitat restoration, establishment and enhancement activities
11. Fish and wildlife harvesting activities
12. Oil spill and hazardous material cleanup
13. Cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste
14. Scientific measurement devices
15. Survey activities
16. Aquaculture projects and fisheries
17. New/expanded developments & recreational facilities
18. Linear transportation projects – wetland crossings only
19. Stream, river & brook crossings (not including wetland crossings)
20. Energy generation and renewable energy generation facilities and hydropower projects
21. Temporary fill not associated with any other GP activities

GP 10. AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION, ESTABLISHMENT & ENHANCEMENT

ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404; tidal and non-tidal waters of the U.S.) Activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement and establishment of non-tidal and tidal wetlands and riparian areas, including invasive, non-native or nuisance species control; the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and other non-tidal open waters; the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal streams & associated wetlands for reestablishment of a natural stream morphology and reconnection of the floodplain; the restoration and enhancement of shellfish, finfish and wildlife; and the rehabilitation or enhancement of tidal streams, tidal wetlands and tidal open waters; provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

Not authorized under GP 10 are: (a) Conversions of wetlands to open water, except for the excavation of new salt pannes and (b) Artificial reefs.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>Special Aquatic Site planting and transplanting ≤100 SF in tidal waters.</p> <p>No new ditching to eliminate mosquito breeding habitat.</p> <p>No thin layer deposition.</p> <p>No fill for purposes of converting marsh to upland.</p> <p>Placement of seed shellfish, spatted-shell or cultch in tidal waters for the restoration or enhancement of existing, publicly-managed, recreational shellfish beds provided there is no placement in or impacts to SAS and does not result in degradation of habitat for other aquatic resources.</p> <p>≤5,000 SF of non-tidal waterway and/or non-tidal wetland fill provided the activity is supported in writing by a state or non-Corps Federal environmental resource management agency.</p> <p>No stream channelization.</p>	<p>Work not eligible for SV</p> <p>Pro-active salt marsh restoration work that includes draining of ponded dieback areas through excavation of runnels with handheld tools or low-impact ground equipment; blocking or unclogging of historic mosquito ditches to restore tidal flushing; excavation of new salt pannes to increase shorebird and waterfowl foraging habitat and placing excavated materials on the marsh surface for establishing suitable vegetative beds.</p> <p>Pond or lake reestablishment or restoration.</p> <p>Water impoundments.</p> <p>Dam removals.</p> <p>Integrated Marsh Management in tidal wetlands for combined wetland enhancement and mosquito control and reduction.</p>

APPENDIX B - GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Other Permits. Permittees must obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law. Applicants are responsible for applying for and obtaining all required State or local approvals. Work that is not regulated by the State, but is subject to Corps jurisdiction, may be eligible for these General Permits (GPs).

2. Federal Jurisdiction.

a. Applicability of the GPs shall be evaluated with reference to Federal jurisdictional limits. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the limits depicted satisfy the Federal criteria defined at 33 CFR 328 “Waters of the United States.” and 33 CFR 329 “Navigable Waters of the United States”

NOTE: Waters of the U.S. include the subcategories “navigable waters of the United States.” and “wetlands.”

b. Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Eligible projects require an application to the Corps which must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters such as lakes and ponds and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams that are on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current federal method required by the Corps. For Corps Wetland Delineation Manual, regional supplements and data sheets, and the National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands, visit our website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx> and then click on “Jurisdiction and Wetlands”. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes the current hydric soil definition, criteria and lists which can be found at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric/>. For the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, visit: www.neiwpc.org/hydricsoils.asp.

3. Mitigation (Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensatory Mitigation)

a. Activities must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States (U.S.) to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site). Consideration of mitigation (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating) is required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are no more than minimal.

b. Applicants should consider riparian/forested buffers for stormwater management and low impact development (LID) best management practices (BMPs) to reduce impervious cover and manage stormwater to minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

c. Compensatory mitigation¹ for effects to waters of the U.S., including direct, secondary and temporal², will generally be required for projects with permanent impacts that exceed the SV area limits, and may be required for temporary impacts that exceed the SV area limits, to offset unavoidable impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved and to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are no more than minimal. Proactive restoration projects or temporary impact work with no secondary effects may generally be excluded from this requirement.

The Corps **Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program** allows Corps permittees, as compensation for their project impacts to aquatic resources of the United States in Connecticut pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, to make monetary payment *in-lieu* of permittee-responsible mitigation. Information is provided at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation.aspx> >>Mitigation>>Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program. Please note that this only applies to Corps required mitigation and additional Connecticut DEEP mitigation may be required.

4. Discretionary Authority. Notwithstanding compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Corps retains discretionary authority to require an Individual Permit review based on concerns for the aquatic environment or for any other factor of the public interest [33 CFR 320.4(a)]. This authority is invoked on a case-by-case basis whenever the Corps determines that the potential consequences of the proposal warrant Individual Permit review based on the concerns stated above. This authority may be invoked for projects with

¹ Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR 332. See also the New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation.aspx>

² Temporal loss: The time lag between the losses of aquatic resource functions caused by the permitted impacts and the replacement of aquatic resource functions at the compensatory mitigation site(s) (33 CFR 332.2).

cumulative adverse environmental effects that are more than minimal, or if there is a special resource or concern associated with a particular project. Whenever the Corps notifies an applicant that an Individual Permit may be required, authorization under these GPs is voided and no work may be conducted until a Corps Individual Permit is obtained or until the Corps notifies the applicant that further review has demonstrated that the work may be reviewed under these GPs.

5. Single and Complete 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. The GPs shall not be used for piecemeal work and shall be applied to single and complete projects.

a. For non-linear projects, a single and complete project must have independent utility. 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.

b. Unless the Corps determines the activity has independent utility, all components of a single project and/or all planned phases of a multi-phased project (e.g., subdivisions should include all work such as roads, utilities, and lot development) shall be treated together as constituting one single and complete project.

c. For linear projects such as power lines or pipelines with multiple crossings, a “single and complete project” is all crossings of a single water of the U.S. (i.e. single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project. 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. If any crossing requires a PCN review or an individual permit review, then the entire linear project shall be reviewed as one project under PCN or the individual permit procedures.

6. Corps Property and Federal Projects.

a. In addition to any authorization under these GPs, proponents must contact the Corps Real Estate Division at (978) 318-8585 for work occurring on or potentially affecting Corps properties and/or Corps-controlled easements to initiate reviews and determine what real estate instruments are necessary to perform work. Permittees may not commence work on Corps properties and/or Corps-controlled easements until they have received any required Corps real estate documents evidencing site-specific permission to work.

b. Any proposed temporary or permanent modification or use of a Federal project (including but not limited to a levee, dike, floodwall, channel, anchorage, seawall, bulkhead, jetty, wharf, pier or other work built but not necessarily owned by the United States), or any use which would obstruct or impair the usefulness of the Federal project in any manner, and/or would involve changes to the authorized Federal project’s scope, purpose, and/or functioning, is not eligible for SV and will also require review and approval by the Corps pursuant to 33 USC 408. Where Section 408 is applicable, a decision on a Department of the Army general permit application will not be rendered prior to the decision on a Section 408 request.

7. National Lands. Activities that impinge upon the value of any National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Marine Sanctuary or any area administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or U.S. Forest Service are not eligible for SV.

8. Wild and Scenic Rivers. No 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. 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).

As of July 15, 2016, affected rivers in Connecticut include: the West Branch of the Farmington River from Colebrook to Canton (designated river); the Eightmile River and tributaries in Salem, Lyme and East Haddam (designated river); and the Lower Farmington River from Canton to Windsor (study river – including its tributary Salmon Brook). Additional information can be found at: <http://www.rivers.gov/connecticut.php>

9. Historic Properties.

a. No undertaking shall cause effects (defined at 33 CFR 325 Appendix C and 36 CFR 800) on properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places³, including previously unknown historic properties within the permit area, unless the Corps or another Federal action agency has satisfied the consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and the National Register of Historic Places can assist with locating information on: i) previously identified historic properties; and ii) areas with potential for the presence of historic resources, which may require identification and evaluation by qualified historic preservation and/or archaeological consultants in consultation with the Corps and the SHPO and/or THPO(s).

b. For activities eligible for SV (inland projects), proponents must ensure and document that the activity will not cause effects as stated in 9(a).

c. Proponents must submit a PCN to the Corps as soon as possible if the authorized activity may cause effects as stated in 9(a) to ensure that the Corps is aware of any potential effects of the permitted activity on any historic property that the consultation requirements of Section 106 of NHPA are satisfied.

d. All PCN (inland projects): i) show notification to the SHPO and applicable THPO(s)⁴ for their identification of historic properties, ii) state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties, and iii) include any available documentation from the SHPO or THPO(s) indicating that there are or are not historic properties affected. Starting consultation early in project planning can save proponents time and money.

e. If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify the district engineer of what you 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.

10. Federal Threatened and Endangered Species.

a. No activity is authorized which: a) is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of any listed or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); b) result in take of a listed species or adversely modifies designated critical habitat; or c) violates the ESA.

b. For listed species or critical habitat under U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jurisdiction, a PCN is required when a proposed project may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat. To ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act, project proponents must request an 'Official Species List' from the USFWS IPaC website <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac> <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>>. This USFWS IPaC website will record the request and immediately email the list to you. Include the list with all applications. An activity is SV eligible if the Official Species List states the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is present BUT the activity: i) will not remove trees ≥ 3 inches dbh; ii) is not within the "buffer" of a NLEB hibernacula or maternity roost tree; and iii) does not involve work on an existing dam, riprap or bridges.

³ The majority of historic properties are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places and may require identification and evaluation by qualified historic preservation and/or archaeological consultants in consultation with the Corps and the SHPO and/or THPO(s).

⁴ Appendix D, #3 Historic Resources, provides contact information and each tribe's "area of concern."

c. For listed species or habitat under NMFS jurisdiction, the Corps will coordinate with NMFS as appropriate for all work eligible for SV that may have an effect on listed species or habitat; therefore SV eligible project proponents are not required to check for listed species or habitat for their projects.

d. Federal applicants should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Work may be eligible for SV if another Federal agency has satisfied the requirements of Section 7 of the ESA. Upon request, permittees must provide the Corps with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

11. Pile Removal and Related Time of Year Restrictions

a. Derelict, degraded or abandoned piles and sheet piles in navigable waters, except for those inside of existing work footprints for piers, must be completely removed or cut and/or driven to 3 feet below the substrate to prevent interference with navigation and in some cases to remove polluting materials. Existing creosote piles in the project area that are affected by project activities should be completely removed. In areas of fine-grained substrates, piles must be removed by the direct, vibratory or clamshell pull method⁵ to minimize turbidity and sedimentation impacts. 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.

b. Piles should either be installed between November 1 and March 15 **OR** must use a soft start each day of pile driving, building up power slowly from a low energy start-up over a period of 20-40 minutes to provide adequate time for fish and marine mammals to leave the vicinity. The buildup of power should occur in uniform stages to provide a constant increase in output. Bubble curtains can be used to reduce sound pressure levels during vibratory or impact hammer pile driving.

12. 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 must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the U.S.

c. Any structure or work that extends closer to the horizontal limits of any Corps Federal Navigation Project than a distance of three times the project's authorized depth shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense prior to any future Corps dredging or the performance of periodic hydrographic surveys. This is applicable to SV and PCN.

d. There shall be no unreasonable interference with navigation by the existence or use of the activity authorized herein, and no attempt shall be made by the permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the activity authorized herein.

e. The permittee understands and agrees that if future U.S. operations 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 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, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the U.S. No claim shall be made against the U.S. on account of any such removal or alteration.

f. An application to the Corps is required for all work in, over or under an FNP or its buffer zone unless otherwise indicated in Appendix A.

⁵ Direct Pull: Each piling is wrapped with a choker cable or chain that is attached at the top to a crane. The crane then pulls the piling directly upward, removing the piling from the sediment. Vibratory Pull: The vibratory hammer is a large mechanical device (5-16 tons) that is suspended from a crane by a cable. The vibrating hammer loosens the piling while the crane pulls up. Clamshell Pull: This can remove intact, broken or damaged pilings. The clamshell bucket is a hinged steel apparatus that operates like a set of steel jaws. The bucket is lowered from a crane and the jaws grasp the piling stub as the crane pulls up. The size of the clamshell bucket is minimized to reduce turbidity during piling removal.

13. Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following: (a) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes; (b) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the U.S. in the public interest; (c) damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit; (d) design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work; (e) damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

14. Heavy Equipment in Wetlands. Operating heavy equipment other than fixed equipment (drill rigs, fixed cranes, etc.) within wetlands shall be minimized, and such equipment shall not be stored, maintained or repaired in wetlands, to the maximum extent practicable. Where construction requires heavy equipment operation in wetlands, the equipment shall either have low ground pressure (typically <3 psi), or it shall be placed on swamp/construction/timber mats (herein referred to as “construction mats”) that are adequate to support the equipment in such a way as to minimize disturbance of wetland soil and vegetation. Construction mats are to be placed in the wetland from the upland or from equipment positioned on swamp mats if working within a wetland. Dragging construction mats into position is prohibited. Other support structures that are capable of safely supporting equipment may be used with written Corps authorization. Similarly, the permittee may request written authorization from the Corps to waive use of mats during frozen or dry conditions. An adequate supply of spill containment equipment shall be maintained on site. Construction mats should be managed in accordance with the following construction mat best management practices:

- Mats should be in good condition to ensure proper installation, use and removal.
- Where feasible, mats should be carried and not dragged unless they are being used as a grading implement.
- Where feasible, place mats in a location that would minimize the amount needed for the wetlands crossing.
- Minimize impacts to wetland areas during installation, use, and removal.
- Install adequate erosion & sediment controls at approaches to mats to promote a smooth transition to, and minimize sediment tracking onto, swamp mats.
- In most cases, construction mats should be placed along the travel area so that the individual boards are resting perpendicular to the direction of traffic. No gaps should exist between mats. Place mats far enough on either side of the resource area to rest on firm ground.
- Provide standard construction mat BMP details to work crews.

15. Temporary Fill.

a. Temporary fill, construction mats and corduroy roads shall be **entirely** removed as soon as they are no longer needed to construct the authorized work. Temporary fill shall be placed in its original location or disposed of at an upland site and suitably contained to prevent its subsequent erosion into waters of the U.S.

b. All temporary fill and disturbed soils shall be stabilized to prevent its eroding into waters of the U.S. where it is not authorized. Work shall include phased or staged development to ensure only areas under active development are exposed and to allow for stabilization practices as soon as practicable. Temporary fill must be placed in a manner that will prevent it from being eroded by expected high flows.

c. Unconfined temporary fill authorized for discharge into waters of the U.S. shall consist of material that minimizes impacts to water quality (e.g. washed stone, stone, etc.).

d. 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. Materials shall be placed in a location and manner that does not adversely impact surface or subsurface water flow into or out of the wetland. Temporary fill authorized for discharge into wetlands shall be placed on geotextile fabric or other appropriate material laid on the pre-construction wetland grade where practicable to minimize impacts and to facilitate restoration to the original grade. Construction mats are excluded from this requirement.

e. Construction debris and/or deteriorated materials shall not be located in waters of the U.S.

16. Restoration of Inland Wetland Areas.

a. Upon completion of construction, all disturbed wetland areas (the disturbance of these areas must be authorized) shall be stabilized with a wetland seed mix containing only plant species native to New England and shall not contain any species listed in the “Invasive and Other Unacceptable Plant Species” Appendix D in the “New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance” found at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/Mitigation/CompensatoryMitigationGuidance.pdf>

b. The introduction or spread of invasive plant species in disturbed areas shall be controlled. If swamp or timber mats are to be used, they shall be thoroughly cleaned before re-use.

c. In areas of authorized temporary disturbance, if trees are cut they shall be cut at or above ground level and not uprooted in order to prevent disruption to the wetland soil structure and to allow stump sprouts to revegetate the work area, unless otherwise authorized.

d. Wetland areas where permanent disturbance is not authorized shall be restored to their original condition and elevation, which under no circumstances shall be higher than the pre-construction elevation. Original condition means careful protection and/or removal of existing soil and vegetation, and replacement back to the original location such that the original soil layering and vegetation schemes are approximately the same, unless otherwise authorized.

17. Coastal Bank Stabilization. Projects involving construction or reconstruction/maintenance of bank stabilization structures within Corps jurisdiction should be designed to minimize environmental effects, effects to neighboring properties, scour, etc. to the maximum extent practicable. For example, vertical bulkheads should only be used in situations where reflected wave energy can be tolerated. This generally eliminates bodies of water where the reflected wave energy may interfere with or impact on harbors, marinas, or other developed shore areas. A revetment is sloped and is typically employed to absorb the direct impact of waves more effectively than a vertical seawall. It typically has a less adverse effect on the beach in front of it, abutting properties and wildlife. For more information on this topic, go to the Corps Coastal Engineering Manual (supersedes the Shore Protection Manual), located at <http://chl.ercd.usace.army.mil>. Select “Products/ Services,” “Publications.” Part 5, Chapter 7-8, a (2) c.

18. 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 U.S. during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

19. Aquatic Life Movements & Management of Water Flows.

a. 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. Unless otherwise stated, activities impounding water in a stream require a PCN to ensure impacts to aquatic life species are avoided and minimized. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies (e.g., streams, wetlands) shall be:

i. Suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species; and

ii. Properly aligned and constructed to prevent bank erosion or streambed scour both adjacent to and inside the culvert. Permanent and temporary crossings of wetlands shall be suitably culverted, spanned or bridged in such a manner as to preserve hydraulic and ecological connectivity between the wetlands on either side of the road.

b. To avoid adverse impacts on aquatic organisms, the low flow channel/thalweg shall remain unobstructed during periods of low flow, except when it is necessary to perform the authorized work.

c. To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and storm water management activities. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high 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).

20. Discharge of Pollutants. All activities involving any discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S. authorized under these GPs shall be consistent with applicable water quality standards, effluent limitations, standards of performance, prohibitions, and pretreatment standards and management practices established pursuant to the CWA (33 U.S.C. 1251), and applicable state and local laws. If applicable water quality standards, limitations, etc., are revised or modified during the term of this permit, the authorized work shall be modified to conform with these standards within 6 months of the effective date of such revision or modification, or within a longer period of time deemed reasonable by the District Engineer in consultation with the Regional Administrator of the EPA. Applicants may presume that state water quality standards are met with issuance of the Section 401 WQC (Applicable only to the Section 404 activity).

21. Spawning, Breeding, and Migratory Areas

a. Jurisdictional activities and impacts such as excavations, discharges of dredged or fill material, and/or suspended sediment producing activities in jurisdictional waters that provide value as fish migratory areas, fish and shellfish spawning or nursery areas, or amphibian and migratory bird breeding areas, during spawning or breeding seasons shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

b. Jurisdictional activities in waters of the U.S. that provide value as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any “take” permits required under the USFWS’s regulations governing compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee should contact the appropriate local office of the USFWS to determine if such “take” permits are required for a particular activity.

22. Storage of Seasonal Structures. Coastal structures, such as pier sections and floats, that are removed from the waterway for a portion of the year (often referred to as seasonal structures) shall be stored in an upland location, located above mean high water (MHW) and **not** in tidal wetlands. These seasonal structures may be stored on the fixed, pile-supported portion of the structure that is seaward of MHW. This is intended to prevent structures from being stored on the marsh substrate and the substrate seaward of MHW.

23. Environmental Functions and Values. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to carry out the construction or operation of the work authorized herein in a manner that minimizes any adverse impacts on existing fish, wildlife, and the environmental functions to the extent practicable. The permittee will discourage the establishment or spread of plant species identified as non-native invasive species by any federal or state agency.

24. Vernal Pools.

a. Only vernal pools that meet the current definition of waters of the U.S. are regulated by the Corps.

b. Direct and indirect adverse effects to all vernal pools (VPs), including their envelopes and critical terrestrial habitats (VP Management Areas), shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Site clearing, grading, and construction activities associated with a regulated activity in the VP Management Area may cause these adverse effects to the VP.

c. When any regulated activities occur within 750 feet of a vernal pool, the following management practices must be followed for all work within any VP Management Area (750’ of a VP’s edge) *in order to qualify for SV*:

i. No disturbance within the VP Depression or VP Envelope (area within 100 feet of the VP Depression’s edge)– does not apply to temporary impact associated with construction mats in previously disturbed areas of existing utility projects or linear transportation projects provided there is a Vegetation Management Plan that avoids, minimizes and mitigates impacts to aquatic resources.

ii. Maintain a minimum of 75% of the Critical Terrestrial Habitat (area within 100-750 feet of the VP Depression’s edge) as unfragmented forest with at least a partly-closed canopy of overstory trees to provide shade, deep litter and woody debris;

iii. Maintain or restore forest corridors connecting wetlands and significant vernal pools;

iv. Minimize forest floor disturbance;

- v. Maintain native understory vegetation and downed woody debris; and
- vi. Cape Cod style-curbings or no curbing options shall be used on new roads to facilitate amphibian passage.

d. A PCN is required for any regulated activity within 750' of a vernal pool when all work within the VP Management Area does not comply with the SV requirements in (c) above. Information on directional buffers in accordance with the VP Directional Buffer Guidance document may be provided in order to demonstrate minimal impact and avoid compensation requirements. Conservation of the un-impacted area within the VP Management Area will often be required.

25. Invasive Species.

a. 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 areas adjacent to the project site caused by the site work shall be avoided. Hence, swamp and timber mats shall be thoroughly cleaned before reuse.

b. Unless otherwise directed by the Corps, all applications for PCN inland projects proposing fill in Corps jurisdiction shall include an Invasive Species Control Plan. Additional information can be found at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/

26. Permit/Authorization Letter On-Site. For PCN projects, the permittee shall ensure that a copy of these GPs and the accompanying authorization letter are at the work site (and the project office) whenever work is being performed, and that all personnel with operational control of the site ensure that all appropriate personnel performing work are fully aware of its terms and conditions. The entire permit authorization shall be made a part of any and all contracts and sub-contracts for work that affects areas of Corps jurisdiction at the site of the work authorized by these GPs. This shall be achieved by including the entire permit authorization in the specifications for work. The term "entire permit authorization" means these GPs, including General Conditions and the authorization letter (including its drawings, plans, appendices and other attachments) and also includes permit modifications. If the authorization letter is issued after the construction specifications, but before receipt of bids or quotes, the entire permit authorization shall be included as an addendum to the specifications. If the authorization letter is issued after receipt of bids or quotes, the entire permit authorization shall be included in the contract or sub-contract as a change order. Although the permittee may assign various aspects of the work to different contractors or sub-contractors, all contractors and sub-contractors shall be obligated by contract to comply with all environmental protection provisions contained within the entire authorization letter, and no contract or sub-contract shall require or allow unauthorized work in areas of Corps jurisdiction.

27. Inspections. The permittee shall allow the Corps to make periodic inspections at any time deemed necessary in order to ensure that the work is being or has been performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. The Corps may also require post-construction engineering drawings for completed work or post-dredging survey drawings for any dredging work.

28. Maintenance. The permittee shall maintain the activity authorized by these GPs in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. This does not include maintenance of dredging projects. Maintenance dredging is subject to the review thresholds in Appendix A – General Permit #7 as well as any conditions included in a written Corps authorization. Maintenance dredging includes only those areas and depths previously authorized and dredged. Some maintenance activities may not be subject to regulation under Section 404 in accordance with 33 CFR 323.4(a) (2).

29. Property Rights. These GPs do not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

30. Transfer of GP Verifications. When the work authorized by these GPs are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the entity or individual who received the authorization, as well as the new owner(s) of the property. If the permittee sells the property associated with a General Permit authorization, the permittee may transfer the General Permit authorization to the new owner by submitting a letter to the Corps to validate the transfer. A

copy of the General Permit authorization letter must be attached to the letter, and the letter must include the following statement: "The terms and conditions of these General Permits, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property". This letter should be signed by both the seller and new property owner(s).

31. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation. This permit and any individual authorizations issued thereof may either be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part pursuant to the policies and procedures of 33 CFR 325.7; and any such action shall not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States.

32. Special Conditions. The Corps may impose other special conditions on a project authorized pursuant to this general permit that are determined necessary to minimize adverse environmental effects or based on any other factor of the public interest. These may be based on concerns from CT DEEP or a Federal resource agency. Failure to comply with all conditions of the authorization, including special conditions, will constitute a permit violation and may subject the permittee to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties and/or restoration.

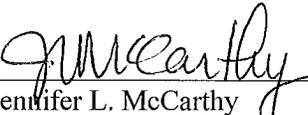
33. False or Incomplete Information. If the Corps makes a determination regarding the eligibility of a project under this permit, and subsequently discovers that it has relied on false, incomplete, or inaccurate information provided by the permittee, the authorization will not be valid, and the U.S. government may institute appropriate legal proceedings.

34. Abandonment. If the permittee decides to abandon the activity authorized under this General Permit, unless such abandonment is merely the transfer of property to a third party, he/she may be required to restore the area to the satisfaction of the Corps.

35. Enforcement cases. These GPs do not apply to any existing or proposed activity in Corps jurisdiction associated with an on-going Corps or EPA enforcement action, until such time as the enforcement action is resolved or the Corps determines that the activity may proceed independently without compromising the enforcement action.

36. Duration of Authorization. These GPs expire five years from the date issued as listed at the top of the cover sheet. Activities authorized by these GPs that have either commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon this authorization will have an additional year from the expiration date to complete the work. The permittee must be able to document to the Corps' satisfaction that the project was under construction or under contract by the expiration date of these GPs. If work is not completed within the one year extended timeframe, the permittee must contact the Corps. The Corps may issue a new authorization provided the project meets the terms and conditions of the CT GPs in effect at the time.

Activities authorized under these GPs will remain authorized until the GP expires, unless discretionary authority has been exercised on a case-by-case basis to modify, suspend, or revoke the authorization in accordance with 33 CFR 325.2(e)(2). Activities completed under the SV or PCN authorizations of these GPs will continue to be authorized after its expiration date.



Jennifer L. McCarthy
Chief, Regulatory Division

19 Aug 16

Date