



REGION 10

SEATTLE, WA 98101

December 18, 2025

Colonel Kathryn P. Sanborn
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Decisions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2026 Nationwide Permits where Tribes do not have Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State and Lands with Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction

Dear Colonel Sanborn:

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401, 33 U.S.C. § 1341, requires applicants for Federal licenses or permits to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge into waters of the United States to obtain a certification or waiver from the certifying authority where the discharge originates or will originate. Where no state or tribe has authority to give such certification, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the certifying authority. 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(1). In this case, several tribes within EPA Region 10 do not have the authority to provide CWA Section 401 certification for projects within their respective tribal lands (Attachment A). Therefore, EPA is making the CWA Section 401 certification decision for the 2026 Nationwide Permit (NWP) reissuance in Indian Country within EPA Region 10. Additionally, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington do not have authority to provide CWA Section 401 certification for projects within lands of exclusive federal jurisdiction in relevant respects.¹

¹ An inventory report compiled by the U.S. General Services Administration for federal properties as of 1962 identifies properties that may contain exclusive federal jurisdiction. This document is accessible at <https://www.congress.gov/116/meeting/house/110088/documents/HHRG-116-II13-20191017-SD044.pdf>. The EPA notes that this inventory report is not all-inclusive and that the information contained within it has not been recently confirmed and/or updated. Please contact EPA Region 10 at R10-401-Certs@epa.gov with questions regarding the jurisdictions where this certification decision applies.

Therefore, EPA is making the certification decision for the 2026 NWP reissuance in lands of exclusive federal jurisdiction in relevant respects within EPA Region 10.

Project Description

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposed to reissue 56 NWPs that would expire in March 2026 and issue one new NWP. 90 FR 26100 (June 18, 2025). The purpose of the NWPs is to authorize categories of activities under CWA Section 404, 33 U.S.C. § 1344, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. § 403, that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental impacts. For more details see:

<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>

EPA's Public Notice Process

On June 18, 2025, EPA received a request for certification from the Corps for the proposed reissuance of the NWPs and issuance of the new NWP. On July 8, 2025, EPA issued a public notice regarding the request for certification and provided the opportunity for the public to submit comments until August 7, 2025. EPA received no public comments related to EPA's certification decision process during the 30-day public notice period.

General Information

The general information provided in this section does not constitute a certification condition(s).

General Applicability

- The Corps did not request CWA Section 401 certification for NWPs 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 35, and 55, and as such, the certification process did not begin and EPA neither certified nor waived certification. Consequently, if any activity authorized by these NWPs may result in a discharge into a water of the United States, on lands where the EPA acts as the certifying authority, the Corps must seek CWA Section 401 certification from EPA.
- If a project proposal does not meet either the general or NWP-specific certification conditions, or if certification is denied for a specific NWP, the project proponent must request an individual certification from EPA Region 10.

Documentation Recommendations

- Project proponents for potential projects authorized under the NWPs should retain this certification in their files with the applicable NWPs as documentation of EPA's certification decisions for the above-referenced proposed NWPs. This certification is specifically associated with the proposed NWPs described above and expires when those NWPs expire, five years from Corps issuance date, or are otherwise superseded by subsequent reissuance if less than five years.
- Copies of this certification should be kept on the job site and made readily available for reference.

Contact Information

- The project proponents for potential projects authorized under an NWP are encouraged to contact EPA Region 10 during the project planning phase if there are any questions about

relevant best management practices (e.g., bioengineering techniques, biodegradable erosion control measures, revegetation using native plant species, suitable fill materials, and disposal of debris/construction materials preventing runoff) and resources that can assist with compliance.

- Prior to work commencing, EPA recommends that project proponents notify the appropriate Tribal Environmental Office, if applicable.
- In the case of a spill, EPA recommends that the project proponent notify EPA Region 10 within 8 hours from discovery. For emergency spills, EPA recommends that the project proponent contact the EPA's National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 as well as the appropriate personnel identified in the project's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures, or similar plan, if applicable.
- If you have any questions regarding this certification, please contact R10-401-Certs@epa.gov.

Grants of Certification with Conditions

EPA is granting certification with conditions for NWP's 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, and A (enclosed). For NWP's that EPA grants certification with conditions, EPA has determined that the activity will comply with the applicable water quality requirements, including any limitation, standard, or other requirement under Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA; any Federal and State or Tribal laws or regulations implementing those sections; and any other water quality-related requirement of State or Tribal law, subject to the conditions listed under the NWP below, pursuant to CWA Section 401(d).

Sincerely,

HANH SHAW

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Date: 2025.12.18 15:50:42
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Hanh Shaw, Manager
Standards, Assessment and Watershed
Management Branch
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: William Iyall, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Christina Donehower, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Darlene Hollum, Hoh Indian Tribe
Cynthia Hernandez, Hoh Indian Tribe
Frances G. Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Matt Beirne, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Jaison Elkins, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Nancy Rapin, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Ken Choke, Nisqually Indian Tribe
Rachel Dunning, Nisqually Indian Tribe
RoseMary LaClair, Nooksack Indian Tribe
Margaret Taylor, Nooksack Indian Tribe
Douglas Woodruff Jr., Quileute Tribe
Robert Beck, Quileute Tribe
Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation
Todd Woodard, Samish Indian Nation
Norma A. Joseph, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Scott Morris, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Quintin Swanson, Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Larissa Pfleeger, Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Charles Miller, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Seth Book, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Robert de los Angeles, Snoqualmie Tribe
Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe
Eric White, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Jody Brown, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Indian Tribe
Casey Schmidt, Suquamish Indian Tribe
Jennifer Washington, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Lisa Hainey, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Gerald Lewis, Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Elizabeth Sanchey, Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

ENCLOSURE

Condition 1: Plan Development and Implementation for Projects that require Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)

Prior to construction for projects that require a PCN, the project proponent shall develop a plan that includes a copy of the PCN and the following information (if not already included in the PCN):

- 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, as applicable:
 - 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 dewatering activities will occur including as applicable locations of cofferdams, temporary berms, piling, and/or dikes.
 - Locations of undergrounding or directional drilling (including bore pits).
 - 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.
- A description of how the site will be restored to pre-construction conditions, as applicable, including measures that will be used to promote and maintain:
 - stream hydrology and stability.
 - aquatic resource composition.
 - diversity of native species existing on site and as introduced via restoration activities.
 - stability of soils.
 - establishment of vegetation at the same percent cover as pre-construction activities.
- The timeframe/schedule for revegetation following completion of construction. Revegetation should occur at the earliest practicable date following completion of construction. Drill seeding is the preferred method, where applicable.
- 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 and sediment 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. If using velocity dissipation structures (*e.g.*, riprap aprons, check dams etc.), structures shall be constructed to include both peak flow rates and total stormwater volume, and provide protection from the erosive potential of high-velocity flows to minimize channel and streambank erosion and scour in the immediate vicinity of discharge points. The project proponent shall ensure all erosion and sediment control measures are in place prior to the onset of construction.
 - Bank stabilization and channel modification. If the project requires bank stabilization or stream channel modification, include pre-construction cross sections. If the project includes steep bank slopes of 3:1 or greater, include revetment cross sections. Bioengineering techniques suitable for steep slope disturbances are preferred (*e.g.*, vegetated toe, bioengineered boulder toe, etc.). Slopes of disturbed banks shall be designed and installed to not reduce the bottom width of the stream.
 - Dewatering: Work shall be completed in the dry unless coordinated with EPA Region 10. 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 and trenching: Explain ditching/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 ditch/trench shall be backfilled with topsoil from the trench, unless other techniques are approved. Include activity timing needs for ditching and stabilization.
 - Undergrounding or directional drilling: Describe measures taken to prevent, contain and cleanup any inadvertent return of drilling fluid to the surface (*i.e.*, “frac-outs”).
- Submit the plan to EPA Region 10 at R10-401-Certs@epa.gov at least 30 days prior to commencing construction activities.

During construction for projects that require a PCN, 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. The discharge of unset cement, concrete, grout, or water that has contacted uncured concrete or cement, or related washout to waters of the U.S. is prohibited.

- 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 the clearing and grubbing of vegetation and disturbance to areas demarcated on the site map submitted as part of the vegetation restoration and monitoring plan. The boundaries of vegetation to protect shall be flagged in the field prior to beginning construction activities.
- Limit restoration of the channel bed to pre-existing contours and conditions. Any proposed deviations must be specified in advance. For example, if any improvements will be made using natural channel design.
- 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 remediation condition photos at the same location(s) and direction(s) as in the failure condition photos.
 - Within 48 hours of observing any failure, the project proponent shall provide EPA Region 10 with the required photo-documentation, and descriptions of all observed failures and implemented remedies.
 - Within three weeks of observing a failure, the project proponent shall provide EPA Region 10 with a description of the impacts and effectiveness of the employed 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, remove sediment and erosion control structures once vegetation is established to the same percent cover as pre-construction conditions, unless they are needed for long term stabilization purposes.
 - Dewatering: Assess all dewatering measures within 24 hours after a severe storm event.

Post construction for projects that require a PCN, the project proponent shall, as applicable:

- Submit a post-construction report, as defined below, within 90 days of completing construction activity to EPA Region 10 at R10-401-Certs@epa.gov or, if the Corps requires a post-construction report for the project activity, the applicant may submit that report to EPA to fulfill this post-construction requirement. The project proponent shall include the

following items in the post-construction report:

- Construction dates.
- As-built drawings.
- Documentation of site restoration activities using photographs and any field data sheets showing that the site was restored to pre-existing conditions or better. Include photographs of the site restoration areas on a map.
- Any water quality data gathered before, during, and post-construction and associated maps showing the sample locations.
- A description of any adaptive management strategies that were employed during construction, with a focus on strategy effectiveness.
- Details on the removal of any sediment and erosion control structures, unless they are needed for long term stabilization purposes.
- Effectiveness of the plan developed and implemented as required under this condition, and recommendations to remedy any deficiencies in plan development and implementation where employed measures were ineffective.
- For activities that require dredging, 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 10 at R10-401-Certs@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.

Why these conditions are necessary: These conditions are necessary to minimize suspended particulates/turbidity caused by construction activities and is necessary to ensure water quality is not degraded by toxic pollutants in toxic amounts, including construction materials, oil, grease, gasoline, or other types of fluids used to operate and maintain equipment used to complete the project, or discharges from dust abatement activities as well as contaminants in dredged material. These conditions also appropriately minimize impacts from access roads, staging areas, and stockpiling to further ensure that construction activities will result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. These conditions will protect water quality because they ensure that the project proponent is using planning and construction practices that will maintain the integrity of the site hydrology and maintain the aquatic resource functions and values and ensure that appropriate revegetation measures are used to re-establish riparian/wetland vegetation to minimize the adverse impacts of discharges of sediment and pollutants that enter waterways. Limiting the amount of vegetation that is disturbed will minimize the adverse environmental impacts of any potential discharges. Monitoring for at least three growing seasons, or until replanted areas meet monitoring success criteria, will provide an adequate indication that the restoration effort is able to demonstrate restoration is successful.

The general conditions in the Corps' NWP package do not address concerns about resuspension and turbidity caused by construction and dredging activities, thereby justifying the inclusion of this condition. General Condition 32 only requires agency coordination in certain circumstances. Additionally, General Condition 11 (equipment), General Condition 12 (soil erosion and sediment controls), and General Condition 13 (removal of temporary structures and fills) provide some aquatic resource protections, but greater specificity is needed to determine what measures are suitable to comply with applicable water quality requirements.

Citations: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(4); 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c)-(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.21(a); 40 C.F.R. § 230.70; 40 C.F.R. § 230.71; 40 C.F.R. § 230.72; 40 C.F.R. § 230.74; 40 C.F.R. § 230.75;

Condition 2: Special Aquatic Resources

Projects or activities expected to have potential discharges into the below special aquatic resources areas on tribal lands in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are not covered by this certification and applicants must request a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 10 consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 121.5.

- **Wetlands classified as peatlands:** For the purposes of this condition, peatlands are permanently or seasonally waterlogged areas containing organic soils classified as a Histosol with a specific thickness of an accumulation of peat (i.e., organic matter) and include fens, bogs and muskegs.²
- **Natural Springs:** Within 100 feet of the water source in natural spring areas. For the purposes of this condition, a spring water source is defined as any location where there is flow emanating from a distinct point at any time during the growing season. Some examples of spring-fed wetlands are hanging gardens. Some examples of spring-fed headwater slopes are peat-accumulating wet meadows and fens (see above). These resources may be identified using U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online digital National Wetland Inventory maps, or other aquatic resource mapping tools.
- **Riffle and Pool Complexes:** For the purposes of this condition, riffle and pool complexes are steep gradient sections of streams recognizable by their hydraulic

² It is a general rule that a soil is classified as an organic soil (Histosol) if more than half of the upper 80 cm (32 inches) of the soil is organic or if organic soil material of any thickness rests on rock or on fragmental material having interstices filled with organic materials. Generally, organic soil materials have organic carbon content by weight of 12 percent or more. See the following for more information on what constitutes "organic soil material," limits between Histosols and soils of other orders, problematic hydric soils situations, and other indicators to identify peatlands: Soil Survey Staff. 1999. Soil taxonomy: A basic system of soil classification for making and interpreting soil surveys. 2nd edition. Natural Resources Conservation Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 436. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/soil-taxonomy>; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2025. Hydric soils of problematic conditions and altered materials, Version 1.0. <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utis/getfile/collection/p266001coll1/id/11824>; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2024. Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 9.0. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/Field-Indicators-of-Hydric-Soils.pdf>

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. Pools are characterized by a slower stream velocity, a steaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate.

Why this condition is necessary: This condition is necessary to ensure a case-by-case review of any point source discharges into waters of the United States that are proposed in these specific aquatic resource site types which are inherently difficult to replace and have important ecological functions and values. Discharges into these systems have the potential to alter water circulation patterns and hydroperiods, release nutrients causing shifts in native to non-native species composition, release chemicals that adversely impact biota (plants and animals), increase turbidity levels, reduce light penetration and photosynthesis, or otherwise change the capacity of these systems to support aquatic life uses and other beneficial uses of these special aquatic sites, including impairing their diverse and unique communities of aquatic organisms, including fish, wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. Project specific information is needed to ensure compliance with water quality requirements.

Citations: 40 C.F.R. § 230.1(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(a)(3); 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c); 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.20-24; 40 C.F.R. § 230.21-22; 40 C.F.R. § 230.41; 40 C.F.R. § 230.45; 40 C.F.R. § 230.75(c)

Condition 3: Specific Condition for Bridges for NWP 3, 14, 15, 57, 58 and A

Project proponents shall use an established bridge analysis and hydraulic design tool when designing and constructing bridges (e.g., HEC-RAS, FHWA, etc.). Bridges shall be constructed in a manner such that stormwater does not drain directly into the waterbody. Bridges shall span greater than or equal to 1.2 times the bankfull width and adjacent wetlands of the affected waterbody, where feasible. Crossings shall be placed perpendicular to the direction of the stream flow where possible and account for potential future lateral migration in the stream, unless the project proponent can document that this would result in increased impacts to aquatic resources or compromise the safety of the structure.

Why this condition is necessary: This condition is necessary to ensure that discharges associated with bridge design and placement minimally affect water quality and aquatic resource functions and values. Perpendicular stream crossings minimize the impacts of bank erosion and scouring from length of stream bed and bank impacts for a project. Drainage directly from the bridge decks may cause erosion and scouring, and introduce additional pollutants, such as oil, gas, sediment, and toxics. Directing bridge deck drainage into constructed runoff water quality control systems will help prevent erosion and keep pollutants from directly entering the waterway. This condition will ensure that physical habitat and hydrologic characteristics of waters are not degraded, will maintain the habitat and biology of the waters and will ensure the hydrogeomorphology is not negatively impacted by the project.

Citation: 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.72; 40 C.F.R. § 122.26

Condition 4: Specific condition for NWP 7

Outfall design and placement shall include an appropriate energy dissipation structure (e.g., rip rap aprons) and shall be sized to prevent high pressure discharge. For intake structures, project proponents shall use an intake screen that reduces the size of aquatic organisms that can be entrained (e.g., a Johnson-type screen/intake), where feasible. Intake velocities shall not exceed 0.5 feet per second.³

Why this condition is necessary: This condition is necessary to ensure that outfall structures and intakes are constructed such that they provide localized erosion control at the point(s) of discharge while minimizing habitat degradation and assimilative capacity of the waterbody. Erosion from outfall structures due to improperly designed and placed structures increases sedimentation that alters stream and wetland hydrology (e.g., scouring and deposition) and uncontrolled stormwater contaminants harm aquatic organisms and habitat. Impingement controls for intake structures reduce the size of aquatic organisms that can be entrained and minimize impacts to aquatic species.

Citations: 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c)-(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.30; 40 C.F.R. § 230.70; 40 C.F.R. § 230.73; 40 C.F.R. § 230.74; 40 C.F.R. § 230.75

Condition 5: Specific Condition for NWP 13

For projects using gabions, the project proponent shall visually inspect and repair any damage to gabions and the gabion installation area after construction is completed at least once a year after spring flows.

Why this condition is necessary: This condition is necessary to reduce the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by hard bank stabilization structures on aquatic biodiversity, habitat, and aquatic resource functions and services. This condition is also necessary to minimize the potential for gabion failure and corresponding water quality impacts. Gabion failure leads to erosion and sediment release, which can significantly affect aquatic ecosystem diversity, productivity and stability, and can potentially release wire into the environment that can impact aquatic habitat. Rock released from damaged gabions can impact channel flow, which can interfere with aquatic habitat processes and infrastructure.

Citations: 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c)-(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.72; 40 C.F.R. § 230.74

Condition 6: Specific Condition for NWP 16

The project proponent shall provide EPA Region 10 with a description of the return water from the upland disposal area prior to discharge, including a description of the nature of the dredged material and a description of any contaminants present in the discharge. The project proponent

³ Additional guidance on water intakes is available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/water-intake-recommendations.pdf>

shall also provide an analysis of how the return water may impact the physiochemical conditions of the receiving water prior to discharge, including a description of how the project proponent will ensure controls are in place to ensure compliance with applicable water quality requirements.

Why this condition is necessary: This condition is necessary to ensure any return water meets applicable water quality requirements and does not degrade receiving waters. Dredged material from industrial and urban areas, stormwater and agricultural runoff, as well as from areas of natural deposits of minerals and other natural substances, often contain contaminants from these sources and may have the potential to alter the chemistry of receiving waters, including but not limited to, nutrients, metals, organic carbon, and invasive species. To ensure that all appropriate and practicable measures to minimize harm to the aquatic ecosystem from contaminants are addressed, the project proponent should consider the unique nature of dredged material and the related contaminant pathway to understand the physicochemical conditions of each disposal site under consideration.

Citation: 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(b)-(d); 40 C.F.R. § 230.11; 40 C.F.R. § 230.12; 40 C.F.R. § 230.22; 40 C.F.R. § 230.31; 40 C.F.R. § 230.32; 40 C.F.R. § 230.61

Condition 7: Specific Condition for NWP 40

The project proponent shall ensure that any return water flows back into waters of the U.S. does not contain levels of toxic and priority pollutants in excess of effluent limitation guidelines established under CWA Section 307, 33 U.S.C. § 1317.

Rationale: This condition is necessary to ensure that return water to waters of the U.S. meets water quality requirements. Agricultural runoff can degrade receiving waters due to contaminants, including toxic and priority pollutants that are subject to effluent limitations pursuant to CWA Section 307 of the Clean Water Act. Project specific information is needed to consider the contaminants proposed for discharge and the aquatic environment at the proposed discharge site to ensure that all appropriate and practicable measures to minimize harm to the aquatic ecosystem are addressed.

Citations: 33 U.S.C. 1317(a)(1); 40 C.F.R. § 401.15; 40 C.F.R. § 230.10(c); 40 C.F.R. § 230.31; 40 C.F.R. § 230.32

ATTACHMENT A

Tribes That Do Not Have Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Alaska

- Metlakatla Indian Community

Idaho

- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe: (EPA Region 10 writes CWA Section 401 certifications for all waters within the Coeur d'Alene reservation boundaries with the exception of the portions of Coeur d'Alene Lake and St. Joe River within the reservation boundaries for which the Tribe has treatment in a similar manner as a state and water quality standards that are effective under the CWA)

Oregon

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- The Klamath Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Washington

- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Hoh Indian Tribe
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Quileute Tribe
- Samish Indian Nation
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- Suquamish Indian Tribe
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
- Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation