



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

New England District

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ISSUANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY VERMONT GENERAL PERMITS (VT GPs)

The New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 hereby announces issuance of the attached statewide Vermont General Permits (VT GPs), pursuant to 33 CFR Part 325.5(c)(1) for minimal impact projects. The VT GPs will replace the prior statewide VT GP, which expires on December 6, 2017, with a series of multiple GPs covering activity-specific categories. These GPs become effective on December 6, 2017 and will continue the expedited review process for activities subject to Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, in waters of the United States (U.S.), including navigable waters, within boundaries of the State of Vermont.

General Permits are used as a way to streamline state and Federal regulatory programs. The New England District has already had success with streamlining these programs with the use of GPs throughout New England. These GPs are designed to authorize activities covered under the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program and the prior VT GP.

Some of the major changes from the previous GP include:

1. The new VT GPs are organized into twenty-one (21) activity-specific General Permits (Appendix A). This was intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act, which allows the Corps to issue general permits for activities that are similar in nature and will cause only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Identifying specific activities allows the Corps to adequately assess cumulative impacts of permitted activities, as well as fully assess impacts on threatened and endangered species. Appendix A also combines work within Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands and other navigable and non-navigable waters and wetlands in one table instead of the previous two tables.
2. Updated general conditions according to current state and Federal law and policies.
3. The new VT GPs' category names have changed from Category 1 to Self-verification (SV) and from Category 2 to Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to be consistent with the NWP program.

The 2017 VT GPs will supersede the previous VT GP which expire on December 6, 2017. Activities that were authorized by the previous VT GP but had not commenced or were not under contract to commence by December 6, 2017 will need to apply for a new authorization under the new VT GPs. Conversely, activities authorized by the previous VT GP that have either commenced or are under contract to commence will have an additional year from the expiration date of December 6, 2017 to complete the work.

Please contact Mr. Michael S. Adams at (802) 872-2893 or at michael.s.adams@usace.army.mil for more information or to request a copy of the VT GPs.

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