

# REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM

**Regulatory Priority: Innovation** 

US Army Corps of Engineers®

U.S. ARMY

US Army Corps of Engineers New England District Regulatory Division

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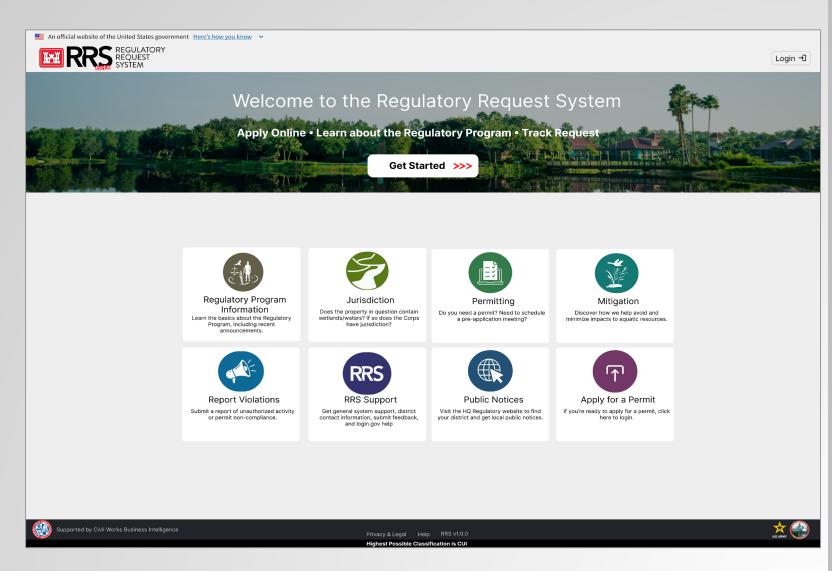
Barnstable Dredging Summit Handout May 15, 2025



# **OVERVIEW – REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM**

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- What is it?
- Benefits provided.
- How to access.
- Release schedule.
- Current capabilities.
- Future capabilities.





# WHAT IS THE REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM?



- A national online application portal and management platform which provides general information on the Regulatory Program and allows users to submit permit applications, pre-application meeting requests and jurisdictional determination requests, saving time and reducing the need for paper-based submissions.
- Applicants can track the status of their requests using a user-friendly dashboard.
- *Beta* allows us to add capability while continuing to implement fixes and make improvements based on user feedback.

## **RRS BENEFITS**





**U.S. ARMY** 

## Utilizes modern technology.

Removes burden associated with the preparation and mailing of paper applications.



## **Streamlined and efficient.**

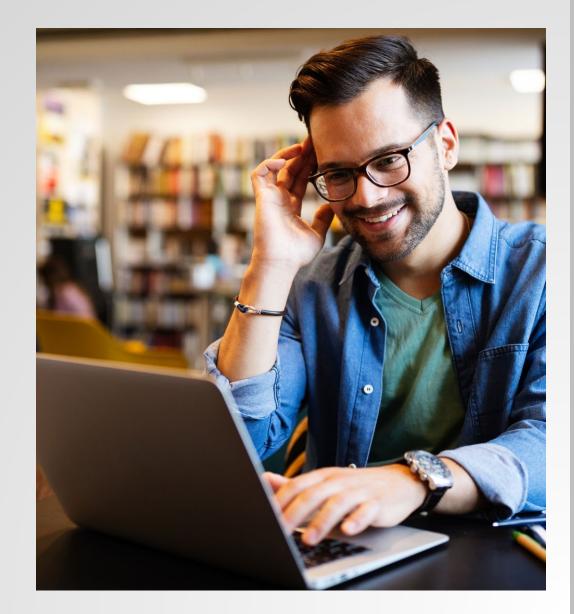
Reduces some of the effort associated with processing applications, data entry and document generation - thus reducing processing times for permit applications and other requests.



## More transparent and improves

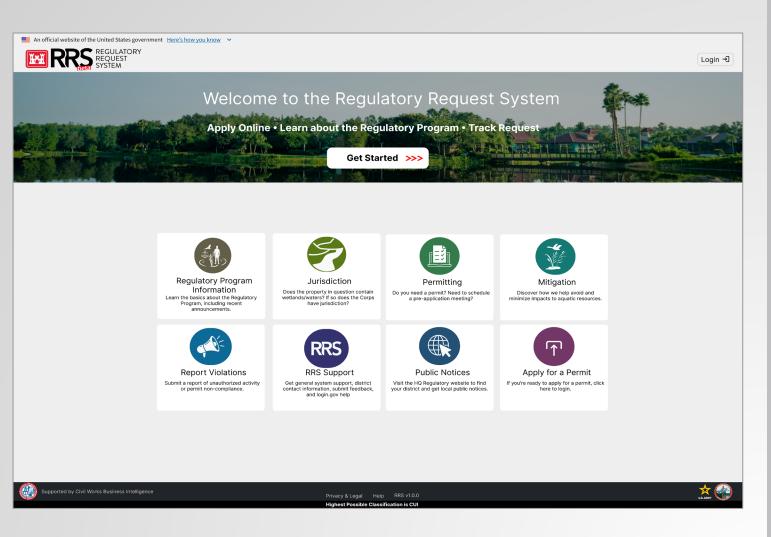
## response times.

Utilizes auto generated emails to include project numbers and contact information (which improves response times) and a user-friendly dashboard so users can track the status of requests.





- If you would like to utilize the RRS – access the platform at <u>https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs</u>.
- From the homepage, RRS provides an overview of each of the topics identified here.
- Once you identify the type of request to move forward with, click "get started" to log in and begin the RRS submittal process.







- Users are required to create an account using Login.gov to submit online requests and to receive status updates.
- Help Center on RRS provides helpful hints for Login.gov as it relates to RRS and account set up.
- <u>RRS is optional.</u> Applicants can still submit permit requests and supporting information by traditional mail or emailing electronic submittals to the appropriate regulatory office.

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The Regulatory Request System (RRS) uses Login.gov for authentication. Login.gov has its own support center, however here are some helpful hints for Login.gov as it relates to RRS.

Click the link below to access step-by-step instructions on how to set up your account in Login.gov.

Login.gov Help Guide [PDF, 1 page





# • Upon logging into RRS, you will be presented with three options:

- ✓ Start a New Request
- ✓ I'm Not Sure
- ✓ My Dashboard

### Regulatory Request System (RRS)

The purpose of this system to accept electronic submittals of information, Department of the Army permit applications, requests for jurisdictional determinations, and comments on projects from the regulated public and resource agencies in one portal. Applicants or agents can also check on the status of their requests. Currently you can only submit requests for preapplication meetings, Jurisdictional determinations, and view general information about the Regulatory Program.

### Select a request type below:







### Home Request Page My Dashboard Help Logged in as (Applicant) Start a New Request **Regulatory Requ** The purpose of this was Select Requestful and comments on proj emation about the Currently you can only Delineation/Jurisdictional Determination Regulatory Program. Submit a WOTUS Delineation Report 9 and Aquatic Resource Inventory 9 Request a Jurisdictional Determination 0 Permits Nationwide Permit (ENG 6082) Individual Permit (ENG 4345) Pre-application / Project Scoping Pre-application/Project Scoping

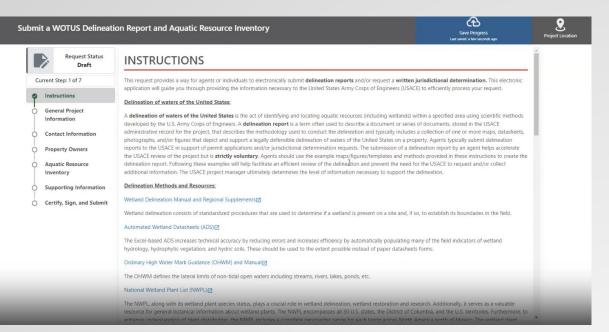


- Choose the request(s) you would like to submit.
  - ✓ Jurisdictional Determination
  - Pre-Application Meeting
  - Individual Permit
  - ✓ General Permit
- Project location will route the application to the appropriate district and offer regional-specific guidance and/or forms.

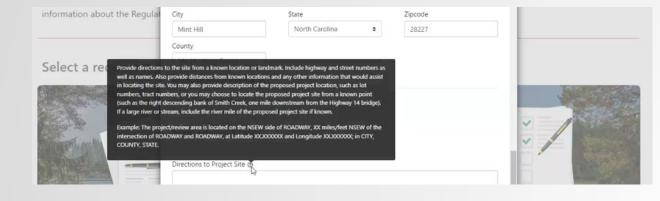




- Based on the request or requests chosen, the RRS will customize data needed from the requestor.
- Tracking tool along the left provides the requestor with steps completed and remaining.



- Steps presented are based on the forms being requested.
- Help bubbles are included to guide the requestor as they complete the forms.





Frequently Asked Questions:



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An official website of the United States	government <u>Here's how you know</u> ~					! TEST ENVIRONMENT !	
The Resultion	Horr	e Help	Request Page	Dashboard	Updates	Logged in as: Jesse Rice (Agent) ~	
	NG 6082) - Acme Roadrunner Trap					Last saved: 5 months ago	
← Exit Form						<b>Project Location</b>	
🗘 ASSIGNED	INSTRUCTIONS						
Iurrent Step: 1 of 8 Instructions Contact Information	Nationwide Permits (NWPs) are a type of general permit issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of certain activities in <u>Waters of the United States (WOT</u> to WOTUS. Many Nationwide Permits require Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before commencing those activities. This elect This form may also be used in some districts to submit a complete Regional or Programmatic General Permit <b>@</b>						
<ul> <li>General Project</li> <li>Information</li> <li>Other Laws and</li> <li>Regulations</li> </ul>	2021 Nationwide Permit List, General Conditions @ 2021 Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions @ 2021 Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions @						
Aquatic Resource Inventory Impacts and Mitigation Supporting Information	▶ IMPORTANT If you're unfamiliar with the Nationwide Permit program and/or local USACE District Regulatory procedures, we recommend that you request a pre-application meeting with the local USACE District prior to submitting this request. You may also contact your local USACE District to ask general questions and to determine how to proceed. Contact information is found at your local USACE Regulatory office 2.	1		ave District-speci nal conditions on		ונז וטי בטוווטופנים פוטטוניבמטטוז טע ופצוטוומו כ סע פ	Contrations
Certify, Sign, and Submit	Pre-application meetings provide the applicant with the information needed to select the correct type of permit as well as the information needed for a complete application				Proj	ect Description	
	more productive when the applicant has prepared information regarding impacts to WOTUS developed a project purpose, considered alternatives to reduce impacts to WOT decisions.	US			Proj	ect Plans	
	Requirements for All Applications:				Deli	neation of Waters of the United States	
	In accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 32(b), specific information must be included in the PCN before it can be considered complete and before the applic it is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the applicant within that 30-day period to request the addi				Mitig	gation	
	additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the applicant does not provide all the requested information, then the USACE District will commence until all of the requested information has been received by the USACE District.	no			Thre	eatened and Endangered Species	
	The expandable sections below detail the requirements for a complete Nationwide Permit PCN. This is provided for information purposes, since the electronic PCN will guide	уо			Histo	oric Properties and Cultural Resources	ŝ
	IMPORTANT Districts may have District-specific requirements for complete applications by regional conditions . Please consult the local				wild	and Scenic Rivers	
						with water in a civil works Duringto	

RRS follows outlined Contents of Pre-Construction Notification at General Condition 32(b) of the Nationwide Permits.

When can I start work?	+
What does permanent "loss" of waters mean?	+
How does the USACE decide whether to allow my project to use a Nationwide Permit?	+





### **Project Description**

You must include a description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss ? of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures. For single and complete linear projects (roadways, utility lines, etc.), the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses ? of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters.

### **Project Plans**

Sketches/plans should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the applicable NWP. This information can greatly facilitate timely reviews and decisions by USACE. Sketches/plans should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans.

While plans do not need to be professionally produced, they should be clear, accurate, and contain all necessary information. The example plans included in these instructions could be used as a guide when developing project plans. Following these examples will help facilitate an efficient review of the application and prevent the need for the USACE to request additional information.

### **Example Plans:**

Sample Drawing Bank Stabilization - Bioengineered [PDF, 2 pages] Sample Drawing Bank Stabilization - Riprap [PDF, 2 pages] Sample Drawing Culvert [PDF, 3 pages] Sample Drawing Dock [PDF, 2 pages] Sample Drawing Stream Crossing [PDF, 2 pages] Sample Drawing Wetland Fill for House [PDF, 1 page] Sample Drawing Wetland Fill for Road [PDF, 2 pages]

# General Condition 32(b)(4).





# Project Description Project Plans Delineation of Waters of the United States

The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by USACE. The permittee may ask USACE to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if USACE does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. While it is the role of the USACE to identify <u>WOTUS</u> on a project site, many USACE Districts do not have the staff and capacity for conducting delineations, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Therefore, in these cases, it is generally recommended that you voluntarily retain an environmental consulting firm to prepare a delineation report to submit to the USACE on your behalf. **Please contact your local <u>USACE Regulatory office</u> <b>2** to determine if they conduct delineations and to confirm current processing times. Furthermore, the 45-day Nationwide Permit review period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by USACE, as appropriate.

### Mitigation

The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site). If the proposed activity will result in the loss ? of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the applicant must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the applicant may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan 2.

# General Condition 32(b)(4).

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# General Condition 32(b)(5).

# General Condition 32(b)(6).





#### Mitigation

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

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

### **Historic Properties and Cultural Resources**

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

### Wild and Scenic Rivers

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

### Federally Authorized Civil Works Projects

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

General Condition 32(b)(6).

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General Condition 32(b)(7).

General Condition 32(b)(8).

General Condition 32(b)(9).

General Condition 32(b)(10).





- Includes a map faced interface for the requestor to create a map for the project.
- Requestor enters the aquatic resources data time saving for Corps' project managers.
- Requestor can upload supporting files. RRS allows for 100 MB file size, not to exceed a total upload of 500 MB.
- It is recommended to avoid using special characters in the filename.

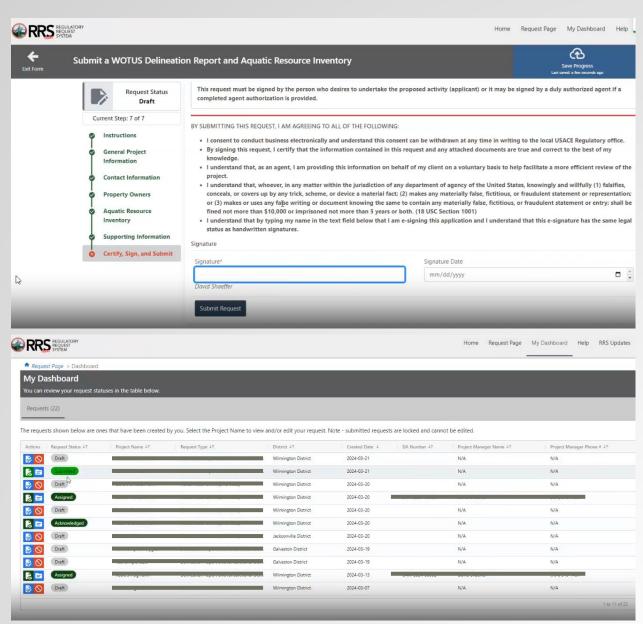
Request Status Draft	Add New Row	• Drag and drop y	our files here, or cl	ick to select files			
Current Step: 5 of 7	Water Name/Label *	State *	Latitude *	Longitude *	Measurement Amount *	Measurement Type *	Measurement Unit
General Project	Pond A		35.191287	-80.654801	2	Area 🗸	Acre 🗸
Information	Stream A	NORTH CAROL V	35.192013	-80.655329	150	Linear -	Foot ~
Contact Information	Uvetland A	NORTH CAROL -	35.191836	-80.655047	1	Area 🗸	Acre
Property Owners	Stream C		35.192149	-80.655493	150	Linear ~	Foot
Aquatic Resource Inventory	Pond B		35.191282	-80.654816	1	Area 🗸	Acre
Supporting Information	Wetland B		35.19183	-80.655016	2	Area 🗸	Acre
Certify, Sign, and Submit	← <u>Previous</u> <u>Next</u> → row	rs per page: 10 ♥ 1-6	of 6		_		

<b>←</b> it Form	Submit a WOTUS Delineation Report and Aquatic Resource Inventory								
	Request Status Draft								
	Current Step: 6 of 7	Comparting Information							
	Instructions	Supporting Information							
	General Project     Information     Contact Information     Property Owners     Aquatic Resource     Inventory	To facilitate your request, we strongly encourage a copy of the Delineation Report and supporting information be upl information that should be provided are contained in the drop-down list when you click on the "Add a Document" tai review are aerial photographs, automated wetland data sheets, and maps/plans/plots. Multiple documents of the san document. Individual files cannot exceed 100MB, and in total cannot exceed 500MB per save.	b. Information that is most helpful in the Corps						
	Supporting Information	Are there any supporting documents you will be uploading?*							
	Certify, Sign, and Submit	Please select an option 🛈 🕈							
		O Please select a value							
		Certify, Sign, and Submit							





- Once all steps are completed, the requestor will sign the forms digitally and submit the request.
- Once submitted, the system goes to the requestor's dashboard that provides a status of requests.
- Users can save their requests periodically after completing all required fields in a section, then exit the form and access the draft later via the dashboard to complete the request later.





## **RRS RELEASE SCHEDULE**



## January 2024 – Phase 1(a)

- General Regulatory Information
- Preapplication Requests
- Jurisdictional Determination Requests
- User Dashboard

## <u>May 2024 – Phase 1(b)</u>

Permit Application Requests

## December 2024 – Phase 2

Public Notice Comments

## **Future Capability**

• Joint Permit Application Requests





## **ADDITIONAL ENHANCEMENTS**



### What's Next?

Future enhancements planned to increase opportunities for public engagement

- Expanded dashboard for improved tracking and status updates.
- Integration with the Regulatory In-lieu fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) – Ability to view mitigation bank and in-lieu fee information.
- Ability for sponsors to submit mitigation bank and in-lieu fee projects.





## **HELP DESK SUPPORT**



- Inquiries and feedback provided at: <u>rrs@usace.army.mil.</u>
- Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri, 0900-2100 EST.
- All Inquiries and feedback are logged into automated system for tracking.
- Average Response Time:
   = less than 24 hours.
- Feedback from users is essential to make RRS the best it can be!



