

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District

696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Date: December 16, 2021 Contact: Kevin R. Kotelly, P.E. E-mail: kevin.r.kotelly@usace.army.mil

ISSUANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CONNECTICUT GENERAL PERMITS (GPs)

The New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hereby announces issuance of the attached statewide Connecticut General Permits, pursuant to 33 CFR Part 325.5(c)(1) for minimal impact projects. The CT GPs will replace the prior statewide Connecticut General Permit, which expired on August 19, 2021 with a series of multiple GPs covering activity-specific categories. These GPs became effective on December 15, 2021 and will continue the expedited review process for activities subject to Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, located in waters of the United States (U.S.), including navigable waters, within boundaries of the State of Connecticut, adjacent ocean waters to the seaward limit of the outer continental shelf, and lands located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation.

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 CT GP.

Some of the major changes from the previous GP include:

- 1. The new CT GPs are organized into twenty-three (23) 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 continues to include non-tidal and tidal waters and wetlands in one table but clearly separates them into distinct sections.
- 2. Modification and Improvement of Existing Minor drainage features and Mosquito Control and Agricultural Activities have been added as GP 22 and GP 23, respectively.
- 3. Updated general conditions according to current state and Federal law and policies.
- 4. Updated the self-verification form (Appendix E) to better reflect General Permit category & impacts.

The 2021 CT GPs supersede the previous CT GP which expired on August 19, 2021. Activities authorized by the previous GP that had not commenced construction or were not under contract to commence construction by that date will need to apply for a new verification under the new CT GPs. Conversely, activities authorized by the previous CT GP that have either commenced construction or are under contract to commence construction will have an additional year from the expiration date of August 19, 2021 to complete the work. You may find the 2021 CT GPs at www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/State-General-Permits/Connecticut-General-Permit/.

Please contact Kevin R. Kotelly at (978) 318-8703 or at <u>kevin.r.kotelly@usace.army.mil</u> for more information.

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