



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New England District

11 Lincoln Street, Room 210

Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

PUBLIC NOTICE

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: June 28, 2022

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In Reply Refer To: Michael S. Adams

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PROPOSED REVISION AND REISSUANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY VERMONT GENERAL PERMITS (GPs)

The New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 hereby proposes to replace and reissue the statewide Vermont General Permit (GPs), pursuant to 33 CFR Part 325.5(c) with a series of multiple GPs covering activity-specific categories. The revised GPs will continue to authorize activities in waters of the United States within the State of Vermont.

The existing GPs expire on December 6, 2022, and we propose to issue the GPs for another five years prior to that date. The revised GPs will continue the expedited review process for activities in Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

General Permits are used as a way to streamline state and Federal regulatory Programs. The New England District has had success with streamlining these programs with the use of GPs throughout New England. The public notice is being issued in accordance with 33 CFR 325.3 (b) to coordinate reissuance of the GPs with Federal resource agencies, state agencies and the public.

The revised GPs organize eligible work into twenty-one (21) activity-specific categories. This continues 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 no more than 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.

All GP authorizations would be subject to the applicable requirements, procedures, and conditions contained in the documentation for the GPs. Project eligibility under these GPs will fall into two categories: Self-Verification (SV) and Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) as described in Section II. Authorization under these GPs will not obviate the need for the permittee to obtain all other federal, state, or local authorizations required by law.

Projects with minimal individual and cumulative effects on the aquatic environment will be approved administratively under these GPs. Representatives of the Corps, state agencies and the Federal resource agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) will continue to review those activities requiring a Pre-Construction Notification to the Corps as outlined within the GPs. Projects that do not meet the terms and conditions of the GPs, including those that have the potential for more than minimal effects, will require an Individual Permit. The Individual Permit review process is detailed at 33 CFR 325, Processing of Department of the Army Permits. Reissuance of the GPs will not alter the Individual Permit review procedures.

Endangered Species Consultation (ESA)

It is the District Engineer's preliminary determination that the proposed GPs are not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. The Corps will be consulting with NMFS and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on determination.

National Historic Preservation Act

It is the District Engineer’s preliminary determination that the proposed work has the potential to cause effects on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. The Corps will be initiating consultation with the VT State Historic Preservation Officer and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

Water Quality Certification

State 401 water quality certification (“WQC”) pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act, or waiver thereof, is required from the state, authorized tribes, or EPA where applicable, prior to the issuance or reissuance of general permits authorizing activities that may result in a discharge into waters of the U.S. The Corps will be requesting the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to determine whether to issue, deny or waive Water Quality Certification.

Proposed Changes

We propose the changes and improvements listed in VT GP 2022 Cover Sheet, Section I - Jurisdiction/Authority to Issue Permits, Section II - Review Categories and Application Procedures, Section III – General Permits, Section IV – General Conditions, Section V – Contacts, and Section VI – Definitions.

We are proposing to lower the mitigation threshold for wetland impacts from 10,000 square feet to 5,000 square feet as described in General Condition 3 to improve our ability to ensure no net loss of wetland functions in Vermont.

Comments

We are seeking public comment in order to properly evaluate the proposed GPs in Vermont. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so in writing within the comment period specified in this notice. Comments should be submitted to: Mr. Michael S. Adams, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 11 Lincoln Street, Room 210, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Adams at (978) 318-8485 or michael.s.adams@usace.army.mil.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.



Tammy R. Turley
Chief, Regulatory Division

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GENERAL PERMITS FOR THE
STATE OF VERMONT**

The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hereby issues General Permits (GPs) for activities subject to the USACE jurisdiction in waters of the United States (U.S.), including navigable waters, within the boundaries of the state of Vermont. These GPs are issued in accordance with the USACE regulations at Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 320–332 (see 33 CFR 325.2(c)(1)). 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.

This document contains the following sections:	Pages
I. JURISDICTION/AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PERMITS	1
II. REVIEW CATEGORIES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES	2
III. GENERAL PERMITS	4
IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS	26
V. CONTACTS	38
VI. DEFINITIONS	39

I. JURISDICTION/AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PERMITS

1. A Department of the Army Permit is required from the USACE for the following regulated activities:
 - a. The construction of any structure in, over, or under any navigable water of the U.S. (see 33 CFR 328), the excavating or dredging from or depositing of material in such waters, or the accomplishment of any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters. The USACE regulates these activities under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (see 33 CFR 322); and
 - b. The discharge of dredged or fill material and certain discharges associated with excavation into waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) including wetlands. The USACE regulates these activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323).
2. Related laws: Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408, “Section 408”), Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Section 302 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, and Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
3. In order for an authorization under these GPs to be valid, a Water Quality Certification (WQC) under Section 401 of the CWA (33 USC 1341) or waiver thereof must be obtained from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR), Watershed Management Division prior to the commencement of work in USACE jurisdiction. The VT ANR has granted an Individual WQC for all activities authorized under these GPs provided those activities meet the criteria as contained

in these GPs and the USACE notifies the VT ANR of projects obtaining written verification under these GPs. The VT ANR will respond within the same response times required of the Federal resource agencies.

II. REVIEW CATEGORIES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. In order for activities to qualify for these GPs, they shall meet the terms and conditions of this document, including the eligibility criteria listed in Section III and the General Conditions (GCs) listed in Section IV. The USACE will consider any activity requiring USACE authorization to be unauthorized if that activity is under construction or completed and does not comply with all of the terms and conditions of the GPs. The USACE will evaluate unauthorized activities for enforcement action under 33 CFR part 326. Any activity not specifically listed may still be eligible for authorization under these GPs; prospective permittees are advised to contact the USACE for specific eligibility determination.
2. Project proponents are encouraged to contact the USACE Vermont Project Office (VPO) with questions at any time (mailing address: 11 Lincoln Street, Room 210, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452; email: cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil; phone: (802) 872-2893). Pre-application meetings (see 33 CFR 325.1(b)), whether arranged by the USACE or requested by applicants, are encouraged to facilitate the review of projects. Pre-application meetings and/or site visits can help streamline the permit process by alerting the applicant to potentially time-consuming concerns that may arise during the evaluation of a project (e.g., avoidance, minimization and compensatory mitigation requirements, historic properties, and endangered species).
3. Federal and state jurisdiction may differ in some instances. Applicants are responsible for applying for and obtaining all required federal, state or local approvals (see GC 1). A permit from the USACE may be required for specific projects regardless of state of Vermont jurisdiction.

These GPs may also be used to authorize projects that are not regulated by the state of Vermont (e.g., fills in intermittent streams, seasonal floats or moorings).

4. How to Obtain/Apply for Authorization:

Project proponents must read each GP and the GCs to see if an activity is eligible for authorization.

- a. Self-Verification (SV):
 - i. May proceed without application or notification to the USACE provided the project proponent verifies that the activity will meet the terms and conditions of applicable GPs. Project proponents shall comply with other federal laws such as the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). Consultation with outside experts, such as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), federally-recognized tribes in the state of Vermont (Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, or THPOs), National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed in Appendix V may also be necessary. The USACE relies on the VT ANR Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) for notification of SV projects, as applicable.
- b. Pre-Construction Notification (PCN):
 - i. For activities that do not qualify for SV, the applicant must submit a PCN to obtain written verification from the USACE before starting work in USACE jurisdiction. Digital submissions are encouraged and preferred and can be submitted directly to USACE staff by email, or at cenae-r-

vt@usace.army.mil. Applicants must submit at least the following information:

- A completed USACE application form (ENG Form 4345¹).
- Plans that illustrate the proposed work in reference to the limits of USACE jurisdiction as applicable. Plans should show existing and proposed conditions and contain all other appropriate information.
- Federal wetland delineation documentation (i.e. Wetland Determination Data Forms).
- Any information on federally listed endangered and threatened species and critical habitat that occur or may occur in the project area (See GC 12).
- Any correspondence with the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer (VT SHPO) and THPOs indicating coordination with these entities to ensure compliance with GC 11.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a copy of their application materials to the VT SHPO and for projects in Addison, Rutland and Bennington counties, to the THPO, at the same time, or before, they apply to the USACE to be reviewed for the presence of historic, archaeological or tribal resources in the permit area that the proposed work may affect.

The USACE will coordinate review of all PCN activities with the interagency review team (IRT) comprised of federal and state agencies to ensure that the proposed activity results in no more than a minimal impact to the aquatic environment. This may require project modifications involving avoidance, minimization, and/or compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to ensure the net effects of a project are minimal.

ii. Emergency Situations: Contact the USACE immediately in the event of an emergency to obtain information on the verification process and coordination requirements. USACE regulation at 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4) states that an “emergency” is a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures.” Emergency work is subject to the same terms and conditions of these GPs as non-emergency work, and similarly, must qualify for authorization under these GPs; otherwise, an Individual Permit (IP) shall be required. Upon notification, the USACE will determine if a project qualifies for emergency procedures under the GPs and whether work may proceed prior to submittal of an application. Where an application is required, the USACE staff will work with all applicable agencies to expedite verification according to established procedures in emergency situations.

5. Projects that are not authorized by these GPs require an IP (33 CFR 325.5(b)) and project proponents must submit an application directly to the USACE. These GPs do not affect the USACE’s IP review process or activities exempt from USACE permit requirements. The USACE retains discretionary authority on a case-by-case basis to elevate an SV to PCN or an IP, or a PCN to an IP based on concerns for the aquatic environment or for any other factor of the public interest (33 CFR 320.4(a)). Whenever the USACE notifies an applicant that a PCN or IP is required, no work in USACE jurisdiction may be conducted until the USACE issues the required authorization in writing indicating that work may proceed. For IPs, an individual 401 WQC or waiver is required from the VT ANR. Contact the VT ANR for procedures on how to apply for a WQC.

¹ Located at www.nae.usace.army.mil/regulatory under “Forms.”

III. GENERAL PERMITS

An activity listed below may be authorized by these GPs only if that activity and the permittee satisfy all of the GP's terms and conditions. Any activity not specifically listed below may still be eligible for the GPs; prospective permittees are advised to contact the USACE for a specific eligibility determination.

“Permanent impacts” means waters of the U.S. that are permanently affected by filling, flooding, excavation, drainage or clearing because of the regulated activity. Permanent impacts include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. Temporary impacts include, but are not limited to, waters of the U.S. that are temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, drained or cleared because of the regulated activity. Temporary impacts are usually associated with construction activities and often involve the placement of cofferdams and construction mats. These fills are removed when construction is completed. Pilings and associated structures do not ordinarily constitute a discharge of fill material. Impacts resulting from activities eligible for exemptions under §404(f) of the CWA are not considered when calculating the impact area.

Vermont General Permits

1. Aids to Navigation
2. Repair or maintenance of existing currently serviceable, authorized or grandfathered structures/fills and removal of structures and fills
3. Moorings
4. Pile-supported structures and floats, including boat lifts/hoists and other miscellaneous structures, temporary recreational structures and work
5. Boat ramps and marine railways
6. Utility line activities
7. Dredging, beach nourishment, rock removal and rock relocation
8. U.S. Coast Guard Approved 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. Energy generation and renewable energy generation facilities and hydropower projects
17. New/expanded developments and recreational facilities
18. Linear transportation projects and stream/wetland crossings
19. Mining Activities
20. Temporary fill not associated with any other GP activities
21. Agricultural activities

GENERAL PERMITS

GP 1. AIDS TO NAVIGATION (Section 10): The placement of aids to navigation and regulatory markers that are approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). See 33 CFR 66, Chapter I, subchapter C.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible

1. Aids to navigation and regulatory markers approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the USCG. Not located within a USACE Federal Navigation Project (FNP).

Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required

1. Work not eligible for SV.
2. Aids to navigation and regulatory markers or temporary buoys, markers, floats, and similar structures that are located within a USACE FNP.

GP 2. REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING CURRENTLY SERVICEABLE, AUTHORIZED OR GRANDFATHERED STRUCTURES/FILLS AND REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES AND FILLS (Sections 10 & 404): (a) Repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3 (activities occurring before certain dates), provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, requirements of other regulatory agencies, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. Includes removal of structures and fill.

Not authorized under GP 2: Permanent impacts >5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other WOTUS.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. Repair, replacement in-kind, or maintenance of existing, currently serviceable, authorized structures or fills with no substantial expansion or change in use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conditions of the original authorization apply. - Minor deviations in fill design allowed. - The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events is authorized, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, the USACE may waive the two-year limit in writing provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays. - Maintenance includes, but it is not limited to, the removal of accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of existing structures (such as bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, dams, etc.), provided: (a) removal is the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built; and (b) all dredged or excavated materials are deposited and retained in an upland area. <p>2. Bulkhead replacement via installation of new bulkhead within 18” of existing bulkhead and backfill.</p> <p>3. Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities that were previously authorized, authorized under SV, or not subject to regulation in all WOTUS.</p> <p>4. Removal of previously authorized structures or fills and the restoration to pre-construction conditions.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Dam and flood control or levee repair, rehabilitation, or replacement which involves a permanent change in the flood elevation or permanent water surface elevation of the impoundment.</p> <p>3. The discharge of more than <i>de minimis</i> (i.e., inconsequential) quantities of accumulated bottom sediment occurring from or through a dam into downstream waters.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Grandfather dates include structures or work completed before December 18, 1968 and fill placed before July 25, 1975 for Corps purposes only.</p> <p>NOTE 2: This GP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the CWA §404(f) exemption for maintenance. See 33 CFR 323.4(a)(2).</p>

GP 3. MOORINGS (Section 10): (a) New private, non-commercial, non-rental, single-boat moorings; (b) Minor relocation of previously authorized moorings; (c) Mooring field expansions, boundary reconfigurations, or modifications of previously authorized mooring fields; and (d) Maintenance and replacement of moorings.

Not authorized under GP 3: Moorings or moored vessels that extend within the horizontal limits of Federal Navigation Projects (FNPs) and moorings associated with a new boating facility.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private, non-commercial, non-rental, single-boat moorings. 2. Minor relocation of previously authorized moorings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. New moorings associated with an existing boating facility.

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GP 4. PILE-SUPPORTED STRUCTURES AND FLOATS, INCLUDING BOAT LIFTS/HOISTS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS STRUCTURES, TEMPORARY RECREATIONAL STRUCTURES AND WORK (Section 10): (a) New, expansions, reconfigurations, or modifications of structures for navigation access including docks, decks, floats, stairs, and boat/float lifts; and (b) Temporary buoys, markers, and similar structures placed for recreational use during specific events such as water skiing competitions and boat races or seasonal use.

Not authorized under GP 4: (a) Fill or excavation; (b) Structures within Federal Navigation Projects (FNPs); or (c) Structures associated with a new boating facility.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. Reconfiguration of existing authorized docks with no additional slips and no expansion, provided those structures do not extend beyond the existing perimeter of the facility.</p> <p>2. Seasonal private, residential pile- or float-supported structures for navigational access extending no further waterward than 50' beyond mean high water (MHW), not >6' wide, and a cumulative dock deck area <500 SF, and not located within 25' of the property line.</p> <p>3. Private, bottom-anchored seasonal swim floats that are <400 SF in size.</p> <p>4. Private boat and float lifts.</p> <p>5. Temporary buoys, markers, and similar structures: (a) placed for recreational use during specific events, provided that such structures are removed within 30 days after use has been discontinued and/or; (b) placed during winter events on ice and removed before spring thaw.</p> <p>Provided 1 - 4 above do not extend across >25% of the waterway width at mean low water (MLW).</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Piers, docks, decks, floats, and similar structures that provide public, community or government recreational uses such as boating, fishing, swimming, access, etc.</p> <p>3. Structures or work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. that are not defined under any other GP activity.</p> <p>4. New structures within an existing boating facility, provided those structures do not extend beyond the existing perimeter of the boating facility.</p> <p>5. Temporary buoys, markers, and similar structures that will not be removed within 30 days after use has been discontinued.</p> <p>6. Cordoning off portions of public waters (e.g. swim areas).</p> <p>NOTE: The USACE may require a letter of no objection from the abutter if structure is to be located within 25 feet of the property line.</p>

GP 5. BOAT RAMPS AND MARINE RAILWAYS (Sections 10 and 404): Activities required for the construction of boat ramps and marine railways including excavation and fill.

Not authorized under GP 5: (a) Permanent impacts $\geq 5,000$ SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other WOTUS; (b) Temporary impacts >1 acre in waters of the U.S.; or (c) dredging in navigable waters of the U.S. (see GP 7).

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. $<5,000$ SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. <5000 SF permanent impact and <1 acre of temporary impact and excavation in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>3. Permanent and temporary impacts $\geq 5,000$ SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands, other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>NOTE: The USACE may require a letter of no objection from the abutter if structure is to be located within 25 feet of the property line.</p>

GP 6. UTILITY LINE ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 & 404): Activities required for (a) The construction, maintenance, relocation, repair, and removal of utility lines, including outfall and intake structures, and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for utility lines; (b) The construction, maintenance or expansion of utility line substation facilities associated with a power/utility line in waters of the U.S.; and (c) The construction and maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary, and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible. This GP authorizes the construction of access roads to facilitate construction of the above activities, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the permanent loss of greater than 1 acre of waters of the U.S. Impacts resulting from mechanized pushing, dragging or other similar activities that redeposit excavated soil material shall be figured into the area limit determination.

Not authorized under GP 6: Permanent and temporary impacts $\geq 5,000$ SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other WOTUS.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. $<5,000$ SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>2. Intake structures that are dry hydrants used exclusively for firefighting activities with no stream impoundments.</p> <p>3. Seasonal waterlines installed on the lake or river bottom less than 2" in diameter.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Overhead utility lines constructed over navigable waters of the U.S. and submarine utility lines that are routed in or under such waters.</p> <p>3. Permanent and temporary impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. $<5,000$ SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. b. $\geq 5,000$ SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. <p>4. Work involves stream channelization, relocation or loss of streambed including impoundments.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the thresholds and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p> <p>NOTE 2: Utility lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the U.S. must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).</p>
<p>NOTE: A utility line is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, data, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term utility line does not include activities that drain a water of the U.S., such as drainage tile or French drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.</p>	

GP 7. DREDGING (Section 10), BEACH NOURISHMENT, (Sections 10 & 404); ROCK REMOVAL (Section 10) AND ROCK RELOCATION (Sections 10 & 404): (a) New and maintenance dredging, including disposal of dredged material for beach nourishment, provided the USACE finds the dredged material to be suitable for such disposal; (b) Beach nourishment not associated with dredging; and (c) Rock removal and relocation for navigation.

Not authorized under GP 7: (a) New and maintenance dredging $\geq 5,000$ CY; (b) Permanent fill $\geq 5,000$ SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other WOTUS; (c) Regulated discharges associated with excavation, and disposal $>1/2$ acre; and (d) Temporary fill >1 acre in all WOTUS.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No new or maintenance dredging in navigable waters of the U.S. 2. $<5,000$ SF of temporary impact associated with dredging in waterways and/or wetlands. 3. Rock removal and relocation ≤ 200 SF of impacts. 4. Debris removal in navigable waters of the U.S. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. New and maintenance dredging up to $5,000$ CY with upland disposal or beach nourishment in navigable waters of the U.S. 3. $\geq 5,000$ SF and <1 acre of temporary impact associated with dredging in all waterways and/or wetlands. 4. Disposal of dredged material for beach nourishment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. $<5,000$ SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. b. $\geq 5,000$ SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.

GP 8. U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED BRIDGES (Section 10 & 404; navigable waters of the U.S.): Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction and modification of bridges across navigable waters of the U.S., including cofferdams, abutments, foundation seals, piers, and temporary construction and access fills, **provided that the USCG authorizes the construction of the bridge structure under Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 or other applicable laws.** A USCG Authorization Act Exemption or a STURRA (144h) exemption do not constitute USCG authorization (see GP 18).

Not authorized under GP 8: Causeways and approach fills (see GP 18)

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction and modification of bridges.	

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GP 9. SHORELINE AND BANK STABILIZATION PROJECTS (Sections 10 & 404): Bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion protection along the banks of lakes, ponds, streams, and any other open waters. Includes bulkheads, seawalls, riprap, revetments or slope protection and similar structures, as well as vegetative planting, soil bioengineering, or alternative techniques that are a combination of the two (e.g. living shorelines), specifically for the purpose of shoreline protection.

Not authorized under GP 9: (a) Bank stabilization ≥ 500 LF in total length and/or involving more than an average of 1CY of fill per linear foot placed below the plane of the ordinary high water mark in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands; (b) Stream channelization or relocation activities; or (c) breakwaters, groins and jetties.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. No fill in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>2. Bank stabilization <200 linear feet long and does not exceed an average of 1 CY of fill per linear foot placed below the plane of the ordinary high water mark in WOTUS other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>3. <5,000 SF of temporary fill associated with bank stabilization in waterways and/or wetlands, other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Bank stabilization <500 linear feet and an average of <1 CY of fill per linear foot placed below the plane of the ordinary high water mark in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p>

GP 10. AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas; the restoration and enhancement of streams and other open waters; the relocation of non-navigable waters of the U.S., including streams and associated wetlands for reestablishment of a natural stream morphology and reconnection of the floodplain; and the restoration and enhancement of shellfish, finfish and wildlife, provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

Not authorized under GP 10: Stream channelization activities.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. No fill in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary impacts are <5,000 SF in waterways and/or wetlands provided the activity is supported in writing by a state, or non-USACE Federal environmental agency.</p> <p>3. No conversion of a stream to wetland or vice versa, or wetland to a pond or uplands.</p> <p>4. Temporary structures in navigable waters of the U.S. not exceeding 30 days.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Permanent or temporary impacts are: a. In Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, adjacent wetlands; or b. $\geq 5,000$ SF in all other waterways and/or wetlands.</p> <p>3. Permanent structures in navigable waters of the U.S.</p> <p>4. Sea Lamprey control projects.</p> <p>5. Water impoundments.</p> <p>6. Dam removals.</p> <p>7. Restoration, establishment and/or enhancement activities approved for use by a USACE-approved In-Lieu Fee Program or USACE-approved mitigation bank, with impacts of any size.</p>

GP 11. FISH AND WILDLIFE HARVESTING ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Activities in waters of the United States associated with fish and wildlife harvesting devices, such as duck blinds, fish shanties, and small fish aggregating and attraction devices.

Not authorized by GP 11: (a) Artificial reefs; and (b) Permanent and temporary fill >5,000 SF in all waterways and/or wetlands.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. Non-fill activities associated with fish and wildlife harvesting devices including duck blinds, fish shanties and small fish aggregating and attraction devices in navigable waters.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. Permanent and temporary impacts <5,000 SF in all waterways and/or wetlands.</p>

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GP 12. OIL SPILL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CLEANUP (Sections 10 and 404): (a) Activities conducted in response to a discharge or release of oil and hazardous substances that are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300) including containment, cleanup, and mitigation efforts, provided activities are done under either (i) The Spill Prevent, Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3; (ii) The direction or oversight of the Federal on-site coordinator designated by 40 CFR 300; or (iii) Any approved existing state, regional or local contingency plan, provided that the Regional Response Team concurs with the proposed response efforts or does not object to the response effort; (b) Activities required for the cleanup of oil releases in waters of the U.S. from electrical equipment that are governed by EPA's polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) spill response regulations at 40 CFR 761; (c) Booms placed in navigable waters of the U.S.; and (d) Use of structures and fills for spill response training exercises. Special Aquatic Sites (SAS) must be restored to their original condition and elevation.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities that are conducted in accordance with a. or b. above. 2. Booms placed in navigable waters of the U.S. for hazardous and toxic waste containment, absorption and prevention, provided they are removed upon completion of the cleanup. 3. Temporary impacts for spill response training exercises <1000 SF in navigable waters of the U.S. and <5000 SF in all other waters of the U.S., and in place ≤30 days. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. Permanent structures or impacts for spill response training exercises.

GP 13. CLEANUP OF HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC WASTE (Sections 10 and 404): Specific activities to effect the containment, stabilization or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials, including court ordered remedial action plans or related settlements which are performed, ordered or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority. SAS must be restored to their original condition and elevation.

Not authorized under GP 13: (a) the establishment of new disposal sites; or (b) the expansion of existing sites used for the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permanent and temporary impacts are <5,000 SF in WOTUS. 2. No fill in navigable waters of the U.S. 3. Booms placed in navigable waters of the U.S. for oil and hazardous substance containment, absorption and prevention, provided they are removed upon completion of the cleanup. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. Permanent and temporary impacts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. $\geq 5,000$ SF in all WOTUS; or b. Located in navigable waters of the U.S. 3. Work involves stream channelization, relocation, impoundments or loss of streambed.

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GP 14. SCIENTIFIC MEASUREMENT DEVICES (Sections 10 and 404): Scientific devices for measuring and recording scientific data, such as staff gauges, tide and current gauges, meteorological stations, water recording and biological observation devices, water quality testing and improvement devices, and similar structures. Also eligible are small temporary weirs and flumes constructed primarily to record water quantity and velocity, provided the discharge is less than 25 CY.

Not authorized under GP 14: (a) Permanent and temporary impacts >1/2 acre in navigable waters of the U.S.; and (b) Permanent and temporary impacts >1 acre in all other WOTUS.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. Permanent and temporary impacts are $\leq 1,000$ SF in WOTUS.</p> <p>2. Temporary structures in navigable waters of the U.S.</p> <p>Provided the activity does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict or concentrate movement of aquatic organisms; • Result in a hazard to navigation. 	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary impacts >1000 SF in WOTUS.</p> <p>3. Permanent structures in navigable waters of the U.S.</p> <p>4. The activity involves permanent biological sampling devices in non-navigable waters of the U.S., temporary or permanent biological sampling devices in navigable waters of the U.S., or weirs and flumes.</p>
<p>NOTE: Upon completion of the use of the device to measure and record scientific data, the measuring device, and any other structures or fills associated with that device (e.g., foundations, anchors, buoys, lines, etc.), must be removed to the maximum extent practicable.</p>	

<p>GP 15. SURVEY ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Survey activities such as soil borings, core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, plugging of seismic shot holes, and other exploratory-type bore holes, exploratory trenching and historic resources surveys.</p> <p>Not authorized under GP 15: (a) Permanent impacts >5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond, and >1 acre in all other waterways and/or wetlands, (b) Temporary impacts >1 acre in all waters of the U.S., excluding temporary mats.</p>	
<p>Self-Verification (SV) Eligible</p>	<p>Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required</p>
<p>1. No fill in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond.</p> <p>2. <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond.</p> <p>3. No impacts, other than soil borings or core sampling, in navigable waters of the U.S.</p> <p>4. No permanent structures or drilling and discharge of excavated material from test wells for oil and gas exploration allowed.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. <5000 SF permanent impact and <1 acre of temporary impact in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>3. Permanent and temporary impacts are \geq5,000 SF and <1 acre of impact in waterways and/or wetlands, other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 1 acre threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>
<p>NOTE: The area in which the exploratory trench is dug must be restored to its preconstruction elevation upon completion of the work and must not drain a water of the United States. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench.</p>	

GP 16. ENERGY GENERATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES AND HYDROPOWER PROJECTS (Sections 10 and 404): Structures and work in navigable waters of the U.S. and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. for the construction, expansion, modification or removal of: (a) land-based renewable energy production facilities, including attendant features; (b) water-based wind production facilities or hydrokinetic renewable energy generation projects and their attendant features; and (c) discharges of dredged or fill material associated with hydropower projects.

Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, land-based collection and distribution facilities, control facilities, and parking lots. For each single and complete project in (b) above, no more than 10 generation units (e.g., wind turbines or hydrokinetic devices) are authorized in navigable waters of the U.S.

Not authorized under GP 19: Permanent and temporary impacts that are (a) >1 acre in non-Section 10 waterways and/or wetlands; (b) >5,000 SF in Section 10 waterways; and (c) >5,000 SF in wetlands adjacent to Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, and Wallace Pond.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>For land-based facilities:</p> <p>1. <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in non-Section 10 waterways and/or wetlands.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary impacts are:</p> <p>a. ≥5000 SF and <1 acre in non-Section 10 waters and wetlands, and</p> <p>b. <5000 SF in navigable waters of the U.S.</p> <p>3. Work involves stream channelization, relocation or loss of streambed including impoundments.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the thresholds and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>

Note: Utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based renewable generation or collection facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility may be authorized by GP 6.

GP 17. NEW/EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction or expansion of developments and/or recreational facilities. This GP authorizes attendant features that are necessary for the use of the development. Attendant features may include but are not limited to roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, and septic fields. Fill area includes all temporary and permanent fill, and regulated discharges associated with excavation.

Not authorized under GP 17: Permanent and temporary impacts >5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other waterways and/or wetlands.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. b. ≥5,000 SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. <p>3. Work involves stream channelization, relocation, or loss of streambed, including impoundments.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the thresholds and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>

GP 18. LINEAR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND STREAM/WETLAND CROSSINGS

(Sections 10 & 404): Activities required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., driveways, roads, highways, railways, trails, airport runways, and taxiways), and attendant features. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

Not authorized under GP 18: Permanent and temporary impacts >5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other waterways and/or wetlands.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog and Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary stream crossings that comply with GC 20; and</p> <p>3. Existing crossings (e.g., culverts, elliptical or arch pipes, etc.) are not modified by (a) decreasing the diameter of the crossing or (b) changing the friction coefficient, such as through sliplining (retrofitting an existing culvert by inserting a smaller diameter pipe), culvert relining or invert lining.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p>	<p>1. Work not eligible for SV.</p> <p>2. Permanent and temporary impacts are:</p> <p>a. <5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>b. ≥5,000 SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>3. Work involves stream channelization, relocation or loss of streambed including impoundments.</p> <p>NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the thresholds and should be removed as soon as work is completed.</p> <p>NOTE: Time of year for instream work is not limited for PCN authorizations unless specifically required by special conditions.</p>
<p>Note: Non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars may be authorized by GP 17.</p>	

GP 19. MINING ACTIVITIES (Sections 10 and 404): Discharges of dredged or fill material into WOTUS for mining activities.

Not authorized under GP 16: Permanent and temporary impacts >5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands, and >1 acre in all other waterways and/or wetlands.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The activity does not occur in, over, or under navigable waters of the U.S. 2. <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work not eligible for SV. 2. Permanent and temporary impacts are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <5,000 SF in Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. b. \geq5,000 SF and <1 acre in waterways and/or wetlands other than Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond and adjacent wetlands. 3. Work occurs in navigable waters of the U.S. 4. Work involves stream channelization, relocation, impoundment, loss of streambed, or discharge of tailings into streams.

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GP 20. TEMPORARY FILL NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OTHER GP ACTIVITIES

(Sections 10 and 404): Temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites that are not authorized under another GP activity.

Not authorized under GP 20: (a) Permanent structures or impacts; (b) Temporary impacts >1 acre in WOTUS; (c) use of cofferdams to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas to change their use; or (d) Structures or fill left in place after construction is completed.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible

Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required

1. Temporary impacts including land clearing in WOTUS are ≤ 5000 SF.

1. Work not eligible for SV.

NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 5,000 SF threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.

NOTE: Construction mats of any area necessary to conduct activities do not count towards the 1 acre threshold and should be removed as soon as work is completed.

Note: Temporary stream crossings may be authorized under GP 18.

GP 21. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES (Section 404): Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. for agricultural activities, including the construction of building pads for farm buildings. Authorized activities include: (a) installation, placement, or construction of drainage tiles, ditches, or levees; mechanized land clearing; land leveling; the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches; and similar activities; (b) discharges of dredged or fill material to relocate existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in streams.

Not authorized under GP 21: (a) Permanent impacts >1 acre in non-Section 10 WOTUS; (b) Work in Section 10 waterways; or (c) Construction of farm ponds in perennial streams.

Self-Verification (SV) Eligible	Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) Required
<p>1. For those activities subject to The USACE jurisdiction, <5,000 SF of permanent and temporary impacts.</p>	<p>1. $\geq 5,000$ SF to <1 acre of permanent and temporary impacts.</p> <p>2. Work involves stream channelization, relocation or loss of streambed including impoundments.</p>

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IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Other Permits. Permittees shall obtain other federal, state, or local authorizations as required by law. Permittees are responsible for applying for and obtaining all required state or local approvals. Work that is not regulated by the state of Vermont, but is subject to USACE jurisdiction, may be eligible for these General Permits (GPs).

2. Federal Jurisdictional Boundaries.

a. Applicability of these GPs shall be evaluated with reference to federal jurisdictional boundaries. Activities shall be evaluated with reference to “waters of the U.S.” under the Clean Water Act (33 CFR 328) and “navigable waters of the U.S.” under §10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 CFR 329). Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the boundaries used satisfy the federal criteria defined at 33 CFR 328-329. These sections prescribe the policy, practice and procedures to be used in determining the extent of the USACE’s jurisdiction. Note: Waters of the U.S. includes all waters pursuant to 33 CFR 328.3(a), and adjacent wetlands as that term is defined in 33 CFR 328.3(c).

b. Applicants shall identify all aquatic resources on the project site. All aquatic resources are presumed to be waters of the U.S. unless an approved jurisdictional determination has been obtained from the USACE that determines otherwise. Wetlands shall be delineated in accordance with the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and the most recent Northcentral/Northeast Regional Supplement.

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

a. Activities shall be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize direct, indirect, secondary, and cumulative adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the 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, may be required for projects with permanent and 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.

d. Mitigation proposals shall follow the guidelines found in the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule April 10, 2008; 33 CFR 332. Permittees considering the use of a monetary payment in-lieu of permittee-responsible mitigation as compensation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. in the state of Vermont may utilize the Vermont In-Lieu Fee Program.

e. Mitigation will likely be required for fills >5,000 SF. Information is provided at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/>.

¹ Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR 332. Also reference 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).

4. Discretionary Authority. Notwithstanding compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, the USACE 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 USACE 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 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 USACE notifies an applicant that an Individual Permit may be required, authorization under these GPs is voided and no work may be conducted until a USACE Individual Permit is obtained or until the USACE notifies the applicant that further review has demonstrated that the work may be reviewed under these GPs.

5. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. The activity shall comply with applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved state of Vermont or municipal floodplain management requirements. Permittees should contact FEMA and/or the state of Vermont Floodplain Management Program regarding floodplain management requirements (see Section V for Federal and state-specific contact info).

6. Single and Complete Project. 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 USACE 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.

7. Use of Multiple General Permits. The use of more than one GP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the U.S. authorized by the GPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the GPs with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over waters is constructed under GP 18, with an associated utility line crossing authorized by GP 6, if the maximum acreage loss of waters of the U.S. for the total project is ≥ 1 acre it shall be evaluated as an IP.

8. USACE Property and Federal Projects.

a. Corps projects and property can be found at: www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works and www.nan.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works

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

c. 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 USACE pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) (Section 408).

d. A PCN is required for all work in, over, under, or within a distance of three times the authorized depth of a USACE Federal Navigation Project (FNP) and may also require permission under Section 408.

e. Any structure or work that extends closer than a distance of three times the project's authorized depth to the horizontal limits of any FNP shall be subject to removal at the owner's expense prior to any future USACE dredging or the performance of periodic hydrographic surveys.

f. Where a Section 408 permission is required, written verification for the PCN will not be issued prior to the decision on the Section 408 permission request.

9. National Lands. Activities that impinge upon the value of any National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, or any area administered by the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are not eligible for SV and require either a PCN of Individual Permit.

10. Wild and Scenic Rivers

a. The following activities in designated rivers of the National Wild and Scenic River (WSR) System, or in a river designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, require a PCN unless the National Park Service (NPS) has determined in writing to the proponent that the proposed work will not adversely affect the WSR designation or study status:

- i. Activities that occur in WSR segments, in and 0.25 miles up or downstream of WSR segments, or in tributaries within 0.25 miles of WSR segments;
- ii. Activities that occur in wetlands within 0.25 miles of WSR segments;
- iii. Activities that have the potential to alter free-flowing characteristics in WSR segments.

b. As of December 19, 2014, affected rivers in Vermont include: the Missisquoi River, from its headwaters at the Lowell/Westfield town line to the Canadian border in Troy (20.5 miles) and from the Canadian border in East Richford to Enosburgh Falls (14.6 miles); and the Trout River.

11. 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 USACE or another Federal action agency has satisfied the consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The State Historic

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 USACE and the SHPO and/or THPO.

SHPO, 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 USACE and the SHPO and/or THPO(s).

b. For activities eligible for SV, proponents must ensure and document that the activity will not cause effects as stated in 11(a).

c. Permittees must submit a PCN to the USACE as soon as possible if the authorized activity may cause effects as stated in 11(a) to ensure that the USACE is aware of any potential effects of the permitted activity on any historic property or cultural resource so that the consultation requirements of Section 106 of NHPA can be satisfied.

d. If a project proponent discovers any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains or artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, they must immediately notify the District Engineer of what they 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.

e. Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 NHPA. Along with the application, Federal applicants shall provide the USACE with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

f. Federal and non-federal applicants should coordinate with the USACE before conducting any onsite archeological work (reconnaissance, surveys, recovery, etc.) requested by the SHPO or the THPO, as the USACE will determine the permit area for the consideration of historic properties based on 33 CFR 325 Appendix C. This is to ensure that work done is in accordance with the USACE requirements.

12. Federal Threatened and Endangered Species.

a. No activity is authorized under any GP which: i) is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species; or ii) “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed; or iii) is “likely to adversely affect” a listed species or critical habitat unless Section 7 consultation has been completed by USACE or another lead action agency in coordination with USACE; or iii) violates the ESA.

b. All prospective permittees shall obtain an Official Species List from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) found at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. This is applicable to SV eligible and PCN activities.

c. A PCN is required if a threatened or endangered species, a species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, or designated or proposed critical habitat (all hereinafter referred to as “listed species or habitat”), as identified under the ESA, may be affected by the proposed work, unless consultation is completed by another lead federal agency, in which case, an application can be SV. An activity may remain eligible for SV if the only listed species affected is the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and only after Section 7 consultation has been completed by USACE under the 4(d) Rule Streamlined Consultation.

d. Federal agencies shall follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA while ensuring that USACE and any other federal action agencies are included in the consultation process.

e. Non-federal representatives designated by USACE to conduct informal consultation or prepare a

biological assessment shall follow the requirements in the designation document(s) and the ESA. Non-federal representatives shall also provide USACE with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. USACE will review the documentation and determine whether it is sufficient to address ESA compliance for the GP activity, or whether additional ESA consultation is necessary.

f. The requirements to comply with Section 7 of the ESA may be satisfied by a programmatic agreement (PA) or programmatic consultation (PC) with USACE, the New England District, or another federal agency. New England District PAs and PCs are found at:
www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory

13. 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 USACE 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 USACE dredging or the performance of periodic hydrographic surveys. This is applicable to SV eligible and PCN activities.

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 USACE, 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. A PCN is required for all work in, over or under an FNP or its buffer zone unless otherwise indicated in Appendix A. as the work may also require a Section 408 perm

14. Federal Liability.

In issuing these GPs, 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; or

e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

15. Heavy Equipment in Wetlands. Operating heavy 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: a) have low ground pressure (typically <3 psi); b) be placed on swamp/construction/timber mats (herein referred to as "construction mats" or "mats") that are adequate to support the equipment in such a way as to minimize disturbance of wetland soil and vegetation; or c)

be operated on adequately dry or frozen wetlands such that shear pressure does not cause subsidence of the wetlands immediately beneath equipment and upheaval of adjacent wetlands. Construction mats are to be placed in the wetland from the upland or from equipment positioned on swamp mats if working within a wetland. Construction mats should be carried, and not dragged, into position, where feasible. Other support structures that are capable of safely supporting equipment may be used with written USACE authorization. Similarly, the permittee may request written authorization from the USACE 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 wetland crossing.
- Minimize impacts to wetland areas during installation, use, and removal.
- Install adequate erosion and sediment controls at approaches to mats to promote a smooth transition to, and minimize sediment tracking onto, mats.
- In most cases, 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. Mats should be placed far enough on either side of the resource area to rest on firm ground.
- Provide standard construction mat BMP details to work crews.
- Construction mats shall be thoroughly cleaned before re-use to minimize spread of invasive species.

16. 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.

17. Restoration of 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/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation.aspx>.

b. The introduction or spread of invasive plant species in disturbed areas shall be controlled. If construction 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.

18. Bank Stabilization. Projects involving construction or reconstruction/maintenance of bank stabilization structures within USACE 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.

19. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.

a. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls⁴ (hereinafter referred to as “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 (OHW), 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. Areas of temporary fill and/or cofferdams must be included in total waterway/wetlands impacts to determine applicability of the GPs.

b. No dewatering shall occur with direct discharge to waters or wetlands. Excess water in isolated work areas shall be pumped or directed to a sedimentation basin, tank or other dewatering structures in an upland area adequately separated from waters or wetlands where suspended solids shall be removed prior to discharge back into waters or wetlands. All discharge points back into waters and wetlands shall use appropriate energy dissipaters and erosion and sedimentation control BMPs.

c. Temporary controls shall be removed upon completion of work, but not until all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work waterward of OHW, are permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Sediment and debris collected by these devices shall be removed and placed at an upland location in a manner that will prevent its later erosion into a waterway or wetland. Controls may be left in place if they are biodegradable, and flows and aquatic life movements are not disrupted.

d. The material within sandbags shall not be released during their removal, and trenches must be backfilled as soon as practicable to reduce turbidity impact duration.

20. Aquatic Life Movements and Management of Water Flows.

⁴ Appropriate soil erosion, sediment and turbidity controls include cofferdams, bypass pumping around barriers immediately up and downstream of the work footprint (i.e., dam and pump), installation of sediment control barriers (i.e., silt fence, vegetated filter strips, geotextile silt fences, filter tubes, erosion control mixes, hay bales or other devices) downhill of all exposed areas, stream fords, retention of existing vegetated buffers, application of temporary mulching during construction, phased construction, and permanent seeding and stabilization, etc.

- 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 permanently 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 and wetlands shall be:
 - i. Suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of aquatic species; and
 - ii. Properly aligned and constructed to prevent bank erosion or streambed scour both adjacent to and inside the crossing.
- 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 shall 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).
- d. Activities that temporarily or permanently impact upstream or downstream flood conditions require a PCN.

21. Waterway/Wetland Work and Crossings.

- a. All permanent crossings of rivers, streams, brooks, etc. (hereon referred to as "streams") shall meet the following performance standards in order to qualify for SV:
 - i. Design the structure to maintain a streambed composition and form throughout the culvert similar to and continuous with the adjacent reaches. To do this:
 - Design and install streambed material and bedforms if not adequately supplied and developed naturally,
 - Design profile and alignment through structure similar to those of adjacent stream reaches,
 - Design culvert elevation to remain embedded for the life of the structure and in consideration of future channel conditions.
 - ii. Maintain velocities, turbulence and depths within the structure similar to those found in adjacent stream reaches across a range of desired flows.
- b. The requirements to comply with the performance standards in GC 21a. above in order to proceed as a SV project do not apply to the following:
 - i. Temporary crossings in place for less than 90 days. Temporary culverts must be embedded unless they're installed during low flow (July 1 – October 1) and it's placed on geotextile fabric laid on the stream bed to ensure restoration to the original grade.
- c. Applicants proposing new crossings, or maintenance or replacement of serviceable crossings should refer to the Guidelines for the Design of Stream/Road Crossings for Passage of Aquatic Organisms in Vermont.
- d. Applicants shall use the least intrusive and environmentally damaging method to construct the stream crossing, following this sequential minimization process: bridge spans, open bottom arches or embedded culverts.
- e. Permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies and wetlands shall be installed in such a manner as to preserve hydraulic and ecological connectivity, on either side of the crossing. The permittee shall take necessary measures to correct wetland damage due to lack of hydraulic connectivity.
- f. Projects using retrofit methods increasing flow velocity or slip lining (retrofitting an existing culvert by inserting a smaller diameter pipe) require a PCN, either as new or maintenance activities.

g. No projects involving open trench excavation in flowing waters, except riprap installation, are allowed under SV. Open trench excavation projects may qualify for SV provided (1) the work doesn't occur in flowing waters (requires using management techniques such as temporary flume pipes, culverts, cofferdams, etc.) and (2) normal flows are maintained upstream and downstream of the project area.

h. For projects that otherwise meet the terms of SV, in-stream construction work shall be conducted only during the low flow period of July 1 to October 1 in any year. Projects that are conducted outside that time period require a PCN, regardless of the waterway and/or wetland impact area.

22. Discharge of Pollutants. All activities involving any discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S. authorized under these GPs shall comply 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 the issuance of a 401 WQC or waiver (Applicable only to the Section 404 activity).

23. 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.

24. Storage of Seasonal Structures. Seasonal or recreational structures such as pier sections, floats, etc., that are removed from the waterway for a portion of the year shall be stored in an upland location, located above OHW and not in wetlands.

25. 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.

26. Vernal Pools.

a. On projects requiring a PCN, vernal pools must be identified on the plan showing aquatic resource delineations.

b. A PCN is required if a discharge of dredged or fill material is proposed in a vernal pool located within WOTUS.

c. Adverse impacts to vernal pools, vernal pool envelopes, and critical terrestrial habitats should be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

d. GC 25(b) and (c) do not apply to projects that are within a municipality that meets the provisions of a USACE-approved VP Special Area Management Plan (VP SAMP) and are otherwise eligible for self-verification, and the applicant meets the requirements to utilize the VP SAMP.

27. Invasive Species. 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 and construction equipment shall be thoroughly cleaned before reuse/relocation.

28. 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 affect areas of USACE 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 USACE jurisdiction.

29. Inspections. The permittee shall allow the USACE 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. To facilitate these inspections, the permittee shall complete and return the Work Start Notification Form and the Compliance Certification Form to the USACE when provided with a PCN verification letter. The USACE may also require post-construction engineering drawings for completed work or post-dredging survey drawings for any dredging work.

30. 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 General Permit 7 in Appendix A, as well as any conditions included in a written USACE 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).

31. Property Rights. Per 33 CFR 320.4(g)(6), 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.

32. Transfer of GP Verifications. If the permittee sells the property associated with a GP verification, the permittee may transfer the GP verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the USACE to validate the transfer. A copy of the GP verification shall be attached to the letter, the letter shall contain the name, address, phone number and email of the transferee (new owner), shall include the following statement and signature, and be emailed to cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil or mailed to: U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, Vermont Project Office, 11 Lincoln Street, Room 210, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452:

When the structures or work authorized by this general permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this general permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this general permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

_____ (Transferee Printed Name)
_____ (Transferee Signature)
_____ (Date)

33. Modification, Suspension, and Revocation. These GPs and any individual authorizations issued thereof may 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.

34. Special Conditions. The USACE may impose other special conditions on a project authorized pursuant to these GPs that are determined necessary to minimize adverse navigational and/or environmental effects or based on any other factor of the public interest. These may be based on concerns from the VT ANR, SHPO, THPO 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.

35. False or Incomplete Information. If the USACE 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.

36. Abandonment. If the permittee decides to abandon the activity authorized under this GP, 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 USACE.

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

38. Duration of Authorization.

a. 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 USACE's 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 USACE. The USACE may issue a new authorization, provided the project meets the terms and conditions of the GPs in effect at the time.

b. Activities authorized under these GPs will remain authorized until the GPs expire, 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.

Tammy R. Turley
Chief, Regulatory Division

Date

DRAFT

V. CONTACTS FOR VERMONT GENERAL PERMITS

1. Federal

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District, Regulatory Division
Vermont Project Office
11 Lincoln Street, Room 210
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452
(802) 872-2893, (802) 879-7638 fax
www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory
cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 918-1692

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087
(603) 223-2541

National Park Service
North Atlantic Region
15 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 223-5203

2. Historic Resources

State Historic Preservation Officer
Division for Historic Preservation
National Life Building
Drawer 20
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-0501
(802) 828-3211

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
c/o Stockbridge-Munsee Community
86 Spring Street
Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267
(413) 884-6048
Area of concern: Addison, Rutland and Bennington
Counties

3. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Department of Environmental Conservation
Wetlands Program
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Department of Environmental Conservation
River Management Program
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Department of Environmental Conservation
Lakes and Ponds Program
Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Department of Environmental Conservation
Dam Safety Program
Facilities Engineering Division
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

State endangered species
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
Nongame and Natural Heritage Program
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

VI. DEFINITIONS

Action Area: The “Endangered Species Consultation Handbook – Procedures for Conducting Consultation and Conference Activities Under Section 7 of the ESA,” defines action area as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. [50 CFR 402.02].”

Artificial Reef: A structure which is constructed or placed in waters for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources and commercial and recreational fishing opportunities.

Attendant Features: Occurring with or as a result of; accompanying.

Biodegradable: A material that decomposes into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time and will not leave a residue of plastic or a petroleum derivative in the environment after degradation. In contrast, degradable plastics break down into plastic fragments that remain in the environment after degradation. Examples of biodegradable materials include jute, sisal, cotton, straw, burlap, coconut husk fiber (coir) or excelsior. In contrast, degradable plastics break down into plastic fragments that remain in the environment after degradation. Photodegradable, UV degradable or Oxo-(bio)degradable plastics are not considered biodegradable under this GP.

Boating facilities: These provide, rent, or sell mooring space, such as marinas, boat/yacht clubs, boat yards, dockminiums, town facilities, etc. Not classified as boating facilities are piers shared between two abutting properties or town mooring fields that charge an equitable user fee based on the actual costs incurred.

Compensatory mitigation: The restoration (reestablishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or, in certain circumstances, preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Construction mats: Construction, swamp and timber mats (herein referred to as “construction mats”) are generic terms used to describe structures that distribute equipment weight to prevent wetland damage while facilitating passage and providing work platforms for workers and equipment. They are comprised of sheets or mats made from a variety of materials in various sizes. A timber mat consists of large timbers bolted or cabled together.

Currently serviceable: Useable as is or with some minor maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Direct effects: The loss of aquatic ecosystem within the footprint of the discharge of dredged or fill material. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Dredged material and discharge of dredged material: These are defined at 33 CFR 323.2(c) and (d). The term “dredged material” means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States.

Discharge: The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Ephemeral stream: A stream with flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

Establishment (creation): The manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Expansions: Work that increases the footprint of fill, depth of basin or drainage feature, structures or floats, or slip capacity.

Fill material & discharge of fill material: These are defined at 33 CFR 323.2(e) and (f). The term fill material is defined as material placed in waters of the U.S. where the material has the effect of either replacing any portion of a water of the U.S. with dry land or changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the U.S.

Federal navigation projects (FNPs): These areas are maintained by the USACE, authorized, constructed and maintained on the premise that they will be accessible and available to all on equal terms. They are comprised of USACE Federal anchorages, Federal channels and Federal turning basins. The following are FNPs in VT, and more information, including the limits, is provided at www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/navigation and www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Navigation Projects:

- Burlington Harbor
- Channel Between the North and South Hero Islands
- Gordons Landing
- Narrows of Lake Champlain
- Otter Creek
- St. Albans Harbor
- Swanton Harbor

Flume: An open artificial water channel, in the form of a gravity chute that leads water from a diversion dam or weir completely aside a natural flow. A flume can be used to measure the rate of flow.

Historic Property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR 60).

Independent utility: A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the USACE regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be

constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. 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.

Indirect effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Individual Permit: A Department of the Army authorization that is issued following a case-by-case evaluation of a specific structure or work in accordance with the procedures of 33 CFR 322, or a specific project involving the proposed discharge(s) in accordance with the procedures of 33 CFR 323, and in accordance with the procedures of 33 CFR 325 and a determination that the proposed discharge is in the public interest pursuant to 33 CFR 320.

Intermittent stream: A stream with flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

Maintenance: Maintenance does not include any modification that changes the character, scope, or size of the original fill design.

Mechanized land clearing: Land clearing activities using mechanized equipment such as backhoes or bulldozers with shear blades, rakes or discs constitute point source discharges and are subject to section 404 jurisdiction when they take place in wetlands or waters of the U.S (Regulatory Guidance Letter 90-05).

Minor deviations: Deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, or current construction codes or safety standards, which are necessary to make repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are permitted, provided the adverse environmental effects resulting from such repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are minimal.

Navigable waters of the United States: These are a subset of waters of the U.S., and are defined at 33 CFR 329. The jurisdictional limits (33 CFR 329.11) extend laterally to the entire water surface and bed of a navigable waterbody, which include all the land and waters below the ordinary high water mark. Jurisdiction thus extends to the edge (as determined above) of all such waterbodies, even though portions of the waterbody may be extremely shallow or obstructed by shoals, vegetation or other barriers. Marshlands and similar areas are thus considered navigable in law, but only so far as the area is subject to inundation by the ordinary high waters. In Vermont these waters are: the Connecticut River, Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, Wallace Pond, Ompompanoosuc River (to mile 3.8), Waits River (to mile 0.9), the Black River (mouth to mile 25 in Craftsbury), the Battenkill River (to mile 50 in Manchester), the Lamoille River (mouth to mile 79 in Greensboro), the Missisquoi River (including the North Branch, from the mouth to mile 88.5 in Lowell), Otter Creek (mouth to mile 63.8 in Procter), Winooski River (mouth to Marshfield), Moose River (from Passumpsic River to the Victory Town Line), Nulhegan River (mouth to its source including the East Branch, the Black Branch and the Yellow Branch), Paul Stream (mouth to the source), East Branch of the Passumpsic River (from the confluence with the Passumpsic River to East Haven), Passumpsic River (mouth to confluence with the East Branch), White River (mouth to its source), Wells River (mouth to Groton Pond).

Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM): A line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, or by other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas. See 33 CFR 328.3(e).

Perennial stream: A stream with flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

Practicable: Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

Permanent impacts: Permanent impacts means waters of the U.S. that are permanently affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent impacts include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody.

Preservation: The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

Re-establishment: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Reestablishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Restoration: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in an aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: reestablishment and rehabilitation.

Secondary effects: These are effects on an aquatic ecosystem that are associated with a discharge of dredged or fill materials, but do not result from the actual placement of the dredged or fill material. Information about secondary effects on aquatic ecosystems shall be considered prior to the time final Section 404 action is taken by permitting authorities. Some examples of secondary effects on an aquatic ecosystem are a) aquatic areas drained, flooded, fragmented, or mechanically cleared, b) fluctuating water levels in an impoundment and downstream associated with the operation of a dam, c) septic tank leaching and surface runoff from residential or commercial developments on fill, and d) leachate and runoff from a sanitary landfill located in waters of the U.S. See 40 CFR 230.11(h).

Special aquatic sites (SAS): These include inland wetlands, mud flats, vegetated shallows (submerged aquatic vegetation), and riffle and pool complexes. These are defined at 40 CFR 230.3 and listed in 40 CFR 230 Subpart E.

Streambed: The substrate of the stream channel between the OHW marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the streambed, but outside of the OHW marks, are not considered part of the streambed.

Stream channelization: The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized stream remains a water of the United States.

Structure: An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

Temporary impacts: Temporary impacts include, but are not limited to, waters of the U.S. that are temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, drained or mechanically cleared because of the regulated activity.

Utility Line: Any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, data, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term "utility line" does not include activities that drain a water of the U.S., such as drainage tile or French drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Vegetated shallows: Permanently inundated areas that under normal circumstances support communities of rooted aquatic vegetation in rivers and lakes. Note: These areas are also commonly referred to as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Vernal pools (VPs): For the purposes of these GPs, VPs are depressional wetland basins that typically go dry in most years and may contain inlets or outlets, typically of intermittent flow. Vernal pools range in both size and depth depending upon landscape position and parent material(s). In most years, VPs support one or more of the following obligate indicator species: wood frog, spotted salamander, blue-spotted salamander, marbled salamander, Jefferson's salamander and fairy shrimp. However, they should preclude sustainable populations of predatory fish.

Water diversions: Water diversions are activities such as bypass pumping (e.g., "dam and pump") or water withdrawals. Temporary flume pipes, culverts or cofferdams where normal flows are maintained within the stream boundary's confines aren't water diversions. "Normal flows" are defined as no change in flow from pre-project conditions.

Weir: A barrier across a river designed to alter the flow characteristics. In most cases, weirs take the form of a barrier, smaller than most conventional dams, across a river that causes water to pool behind the structure (not unlike a dam) and allows water to flow over the top. Weirs are commonly used to alter the flow regime of the river, prevent flooding, measure discharge and help render a river navigable.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS): Waters of the United States are defined in 33 CFR 328.3. These waters include more than navigable waters of the U.S. and are the waters where permits are required for the discharge of dredged or fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Waters of the U.S. include jurisdictional wetlands.