



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

March 29, 2021

404 Permit Application Number: 22154/22619 Ustick Road Overpass

Nationwide Permit Number: 14, Linear Transportation Projects

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Idaho Transportation Department

Project Location: Latitude 43°38'02.3"° N, Longitude 116°37'50.8"W ° W; Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho

Receiving Water Body: East Caldwell Drain

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on February 12, 2021, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits.

Project Description

The project will replace the existing Ustick Road overpass bridge at I-84 in order to accommodate widening I-84 from two lanes each direction to four lanes. East Caldwell Drain will be routed through a new pipe constructed under Ustick Road. Additionally, .06 acres of wetland will be filled. Wetland credits will be purchased to offset these permanent impacts.

Antidegradation Review

The WQS contain an antidegradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.02.051).

- Tier I Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier II Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).
- Tier III Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ is employing a water body by water body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier I protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier II protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

Pollutants of Concern

The primary pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

This project is located on East Caldwell Drain, which is not within the AU database maintained by DEQ, nor is it part of the National Hydrography Dataset. East Caldwell Drain is not designated in Idaho's water quality standards and is considered a man-made waterway (IDAPA 58.01.02.010.58). DEQ protects such waterways for the use for which they were developed, namely agricultural water supply (IDAPA 58.01.02.101.02). As such, DEQ will provide Tier I protection only for this waterbody.

In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).

The only pollutant of concern associated with this project is sediment. However, sediment is not relevant to recreational uses since sediment will not degrade water quality necessary to support recreation uses, and it is therefore unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier II analysis.

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)

A Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses

and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of existing and designated beneficial uses.

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain existing and designated beneficial uses.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both existing and designated uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier I provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

General Conditions

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.

DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.

2. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.
3. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.

4. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.
5. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.
6. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 are met.

Fill Material

7. Fill material subject to suspension shall be free of easily suspended fine material. The fill material to be placed shall be clean material only. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
8. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
9. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052, and 58.01.02.200 are met.
10. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052, and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Erosion and Sediment Control

11. Temporary and permanent BMPs for sediment and erosion control that are suitable to protect waters of the state shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052, and 58.01.02.200 are met.
12. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
13. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
14. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

15. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Turbidity

16. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Visual observation is acceptable to determine whether BMPs are functioning properly. If a plume is observed, the project may be causing an exceedance of WQS and the permittee must inspect the condition of the projects BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the permittee must modify the activity or implement additional BMPs (this may also include modifying existing BMPs). This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
17. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabrics, and silt fences must be implemented and properly maintained to minimize instream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

In-water Work

18. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
19. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or suitably designed pads to prevent damage to the wetlands. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
20. Measures shall be taken to prevent wet concrete from entering into waters of the state when placed in forms and/or from truck washing. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Pollutants/Toxics

21. The use of chemicals such as soil stabilizers, dust palliatives, sterilants, growth inhibitors, fertilizers, and deicing salts during construction and operation should be limited to the best estimate of optimum application rates. All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid excess application and introduction of chemicals into waters of the state. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

22. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.
23. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian and wetland vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Dredge Material Management

24. Upland disposal of dredged material must be done in a manner that prevents the material from re-entering waters of the state. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.052 and 58.01.02.200 are met.

Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials

25. Petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of waters of the state. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that those materials will not enter waters of the state as a result of high water, precipitation runoff, wind, storage facility failure, accidents in operation, or unauthorized third-party activities. . This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.850 are met.
26. Daily inspections of all fluid systems on equipment to be used in or near waters of the state shall be done to ensure no leaks or potential leaks exist prior to equipment use. A log book of these inspections shall be kept on site and provided to DEQ upon request. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.851 and 58.01.02.852 are met.
27. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.850 are met.
28. Equipment and machinery shall be steam cleaned of oils and grease in an upland location or staging area with appropriate wastewater controls and treatment prior to entering a water of the state. Any wastewater or wash water must not be allowed to enter a water of the state. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.850 are met.
29. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850, in the event of an unauthorized release of hazardous material to state waters or to land such that there is a likelihood that it will enter state waters, the responsible persons in charge must
 - a. Make every reasonable effort to abate and stop a continuing spill.
 - b. Make every reasonable effort to contain spilled material in such a manner that it will not reach surface or ground waters of the state.

- c. Call 911 if immediate assistance is required to control, contain, or clean up the spill. If no assistance is needed in cleaning up the spill, contact the appropriate DEQ regional office during normal working hours or Idaho State Communications Center after normal working hours (1-800-632-8000). If the spilled volume is above federal reportable quantities, contact the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802).
 - Boise Regional Office: 208-373-0550 / 888-800-3480
- d. Collect, remove, and dispose of the spilled material in a manner approved by DEQ. This condition is necessary to ensure the provisions of IDAPA 58.01.02.850, 58.01.02.851, and 58.01.02.852 are met.

Right to Appeal Final Certification

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the “Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality” (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to DEQ Boise Regional Office, Kati Carberry, (208) 373-0434 or kati.carberry@deq.idaho.gov.



Aaron Scheff
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