



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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www.deq.idaho.gov

Governor Brad Little
Director John H. Tippetts

February 19, 2019

Mr. Mark Ridinger
Nez Perce County Highway Department
P.O. Box 896
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Subject: FINAL 401 Water Quality Certification for Southwick Road Safety Improvements,
NWW-2018-585

Dear Mr.: Ridinger

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that states issue certifications for activities which are authorized by a federal permit and which may result in the discharge to surface waters. In Idaho, the DEQ is responsible for reviewing these activities and evaluating whether the activity will comply with Idaho's Water Quality Standards, including any applicable water quality management plans (e.g., total maximum daily loads). A federal discharge permit cannot be issued until DEQ has provided certification or waived certification either expressly, or by taking no action.

This letter is to inform you that DEQ has evaluated the information submitted to us by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is issuing the attached 401 certification, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

This certification shall remain in effect until 2 years from issuance, at which time construction must be completed.

Please contact me at 208-799-4370 if you have any questions or further information to submit to DEQ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cardwell".

John Cardwell
Regional Administrator
Lewiston Regional Office

c: Gregory Martinez ACOE
Tracy Peak ACOE Project Manager
Loren Moore, DEQ SO
Sujata Connell, DEQ LRO



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

February 19, 2019

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2018-585, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council - Southwick Road Realignment

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Nez Perce County Highway Department

Project Location:

Latitude: 46°36'0.21" N, Longitude: -116°29'44.37" W, Nez Perce County - Southwick, Idaho

Receiving Water Body: Ephemeral/unnamed tributaries to Bedrock Creek

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 January 3, 2019, 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

This project will realign Southwick Road by removing an existing curve to improve motorist safety and includes the design and construction of 1,200 feet of new roadway, flattening slopes and widening the shoulders along this section of roadway. This project entails reconstruction of two 36-inch culvert crossings and filling approximately 300 square feet of wetlands to allow the culverts to cross wetlands and unnamed ephemeral tributaries which flow southwesterly to Bedrock Creek, a tributary of the Clearwater River. This project is being verified under Nationwide Permit #14 – Linear Transportation.

Antidegradation Review

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

- Tier 1 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 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier 2 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 3 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 1 protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier 2 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 pollutants of concern for this project are sediment and temperature. 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 an ephemeral tributary within the Clearwater River Subbasin assessment unit (AU) ID17060306CL041_02 (Bedrock Creek - source to mouth). Beneficial uses for this AU have not yet been designated. Because DEQ presumes most waters in the state will support cold water aquatic life and primary or secondary contact recreation beneficial uses, undesignated waters are protected for these uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.101.01.a). 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).

According to DEQ's 2014 Integrated Report, this AU is not fully supporting one or more of its assessed uses. The aquatic life use in this receiving water body AU is not fully supported. Causes of impairment include increased water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, sediment, ammonia, oil and grease, and other unknown causes. The contact recreation beneficial

use is also not fully supported. Causes of impairment include fecal coliform and oil and grease. As such, DEQ will provide Tier I protection for both the aquatic life and contact recreation uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01).

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)

As noted above, 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 beneficial 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 designated beneficial uses.

Water bodies not supporting existing or designated beneficial uses must be identified as water quality limited, and a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be prepared for those pollutants causing impairment. Once a TMDL is developed, discharges of causative pollutants shall be consistent with the allocations in the TMDL (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.05). Prior to the development of the TMDL, the WQS require the application of the antidegradation policy and implementation provisions to maintain and protect uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.04).

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 and increased temperature levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion, sediment and stormwater controls will be installed, that will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions and other pollution discharges to enter the stream and wetlands. Inlet and outlet protection will ensure that sediment from slope erosion does not enter the adjacent waterbody. Construction work will be constrained to minimize disturbed areas and all disturbed areas, including stream banks, will be re-vegetated with native plants, forbs and grasses as soon as possible after construction. Project equipment and machinery will be inspected daily to be free of grease, oil and fuel. Fueling locations will be at least 50 feet from surface waters with adequate spill containment and cleanup materials present. 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 designated and existing beneficial uses.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both designated and existing uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier 1 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. The proposed project shall be constructed in a manner that will not violate Idaho's Water Quality Standards as set forth in IDAPA 58.01.02.
2. 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 waterbodies, or state WQS – there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow the conditions described in this certification and the section 404 permit.
4. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the state, coverage under the EPA Stormwater Construction General Permit *must* be obtained. More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities-region-10>.

Fill Material

1. Fill material shall be free of organic and easily suspendable fine material. The fill material to be placed shall include clean earth fill, sand, and stone only.
2. 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.

Erosion and Sediment Control

1. All practical best management practices (BMPs) on disturbed banks and in waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Turbidity shall not exceed background turbidity by more than 50 NTU instantaneously or more than 25 NTU for more than 10 consecutive days. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
2. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf>. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
3. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
4. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.

5. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
6. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
7. Measures shall be taken to prevent wet concrete from entering waters of the state.

Turbidity

1. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Turbidity monitoring must be conducted each day during project implementation when project activities may result in turbidity increases above background levels (background- representative stream conditions above project work). If the downstream turbidity exceeds upstream turbidity by fifty (50) nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) or more, or more than twenty-five (25) NTU for more than ten (10) consecutive days, the project is causing an exceedance of the WQS. If an exceedance occurs, the permittee must inspect the condition of the project BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the applicant must modify the activity which may include modifying existing BMPs.
2. 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 project's BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the permittee must modify the activity or implement additional BMPs which may also include modifying existing BMPs.
3. 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.
4. Work in open water is to be kept at a minimum and only when necessary. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow or when stream diversion is in place.

In-water Work

1. Fording of the channel is not permitted. Temporary bridges or other structures shall be built if crossings are necessary.
 - a. Temporary crossings must be perpendicular to channels and located in areas with the least impact. The temporary crossings must be supplemented with clean gravel or treated with other mitigation methods at least as effective in reducing impacts. Temporary crossings must be removed as soon as possible after the project is completed or the crossing is no longer needed.
2. Measures shall be taken to prevent wet concrete from entering into waters of the state when placed in forms and/or from truck washing.
3. To minimize sediment transport, stream channel or stream bank stabilization must be completed prior to returning water to a dewatered segment.

Pollutants/Toxics

1. 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.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

1. Disturbance of existing riparian and native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
2. 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.

Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials

1. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials will not enter waters of the state.
2. Equipment and machinery must be moved to an upland area prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
3. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
4. Any release of petroleum products, hazardous or deleterious materials must be immediately contained and remediated and DEQ must be notified.

Culverts

1. The culvert shall not constrict the stream channel and shall not be angled such that the outflow is directed toward the stream bank.
2. The culvert outflow shall be armored with riprap to provide erosion control. This riprap will be clean, angular, dense rock that is free of fines and resistant to decomposition.
3. Culverts shall be sized appropriately to maintain the natural drainage patterns.

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 Mark Sellet at (208) 799-4370 or email at mark.sellet@deq.idaho.gov .



John Cardwell

Regional Administration

Lewiston Regional Office