



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

Deidre Henderson  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Kim Shelley  
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
John Mackey, P.E.  
Director

August 21, 2023

**VIA EMAIL**  
**(Read Receipt Requested)**

Regional Permit Specialist, Regulatory Division  
Attn: Leah M. Fisher  
The United States Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District  
1325 J Street, Room 1350  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Leah.M.Fisher@usace.army.mil

**Subject: Blanket RGP 8 Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
Certification No.: DWQ-2023-06003**

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has had the opportunity to issue for public notice the Draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the re-issue of the Regional General Permit 8 for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities (RGP 8) in the USACE Sacramento District, which includes all navigable waters and wetlands within the State of Utah. The draft 401 Water Quality Certification was on public notice from July 27, 2023 until August 10, 2023. The DWQ did not receive any comments during the public notice period.

Enclosed you will find a Section 401 Water Quality Certification with conditions, authorized by DWQ's Director. This Certification is issued to the United States Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District for any project determined by the USACE to be covered under the RGP 8 Permit. The permittee receiving coverage under the RGP 8 must comply with the Blanket 401 Water Quality Certification Conditions for the permitted project.

RGP 8  
401 WQ Certification Letter  
Certification No.: DWQ-2023-06003

If you have any questions about the attached Certification, please contact Linsey Shafer at (385) 405-4158 or at [lrshafer@utah.gov](mailto:lrshafer@utah.gov).

Sincerely,



Linsey Shafer  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Water Quality

LS/mh

Enclosures: 1. Section 401 Certification DWQ-2023-06003

DWQ-2023-121679

Cc: Via Email

Jason Gibson, USACE  
Michael Pectol, USACE  
Nicole Fresard, USACE  
Hollis Jencks, USACE  
Hilary Regnart, USACE  
Matthew Roberts, USACE  
Hillary.H.Regnart@usace.army.mil  
Grant Koford, Bear River Health Department  
John Chartier, District Engineer, Central Utah Public Health Department  
Dave Spence, Davis County Health Department  
Dorothy Adams, Salt Lake County Health Department  
Russell Seeley, San Juan County Public Health and Southeast Utah Health Department  
Paul Wright, Southwest Utah Public Health Department  
Nathan Brooks, Summit County Health Department  
Bryan Slade, Tooele County Health Department  
Nathan Hall, Tri-County Health Department  
Tyler Plewet, Utah County Health Department  
Dwight Hill, Wasatch County Health Department  
Michela Harris, Weber Morgan Health Department

**STATE OF UTAH  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. DWQ-2023-06003**

**Project Proponents:** Leah M. Fisher  
Regional Permit Specialist, Regulatory Division  
The United States Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District  
1325 J Street, Room 1350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project:** The United States Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District (the Project Proponent) is proposing to modify and re-issue the Regional General Permit (RGP) 8 for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities (RGP 8). The proposed RGP 8 (the Project) would authorize permanent or temporary discharge of dredged and /or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, for repair or protection activities for which the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that an emergency situation exists. The Sacramento District initially issued the RGP 8 as RGP 60 in January 1998. In January 2015, RGP 60 was re-issued as RGP 8, authorizing emergency repair and rehabilitation of previously authorized, currently serviceable structures, or fills in emergency situations. The activities authorized under the RGP 8 include but are not limited to; bank stabilization, restoration of damaged areas, temporary fills for dewatering and construction access, and repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of existing structures and fills, such as utility and wastewater systems, pipelines, flood control structures and features, irrigation pumps or intakes, roads, and bridges. The USACE proposes reauthorizing the RGP 8 with some modifications to the terms and conditions. Any permittee authorized by RGP 8 must comply with the general terms and conditions listed within the following Blanket RGP 8 Section 401 Water Quality Certification when conducting activities within the State of Utah.

**Location:** Emergency activities in waters of the United States subject to the authorities of the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Program within the State of Utah.

**Watercourse(s):** Navigable waters of the U.S, including wetlands

**USACE Section 404:** SPK-1997-00652

**Effective Date:** August 21, 2023

## **Table of Contents**

I. Definitions	3
II. Acronyms	3
III. Executive Summary	4
IV. Background	5
V. Certification Conditions	7
VI. Condition Justification and Citation	8
VII. Disclaimers	14
VIII. Public Notice and Comments	14

## I. Definitions

- A. **Designated Beneficial Uses** means a water's present most reasonable uses, grouped by use classes to protect the uses against controllable pollution. Beneficial uses designated within each class are described in Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-2-6 and waterbodies beneficial uses can be found in UAC R317-2-13. For the purposes of this document, the term "designated beneficial uses" will be used to describe all uses required to be protected by Utah water quality standards and antidegradation policy.
- B. **Blue Ribbon Fishery:** status administered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council that indicates the waterbody has high quality in the following attributes: fishing, outdoor experience, fish habitat, and economic benefits.
- C. **Beneficial Use Classes** are how waters of the state are grouped and classified to protect against controllable pollution the beneficial uses designated within each class. UAC R317-2-6.
- D. **Category 1 Waters** are "*Waters which have been determined by the Board to be of exceptional recreational or ecological significance or have been determined to be a State or National resource requiring protection, shall be maintained at existing high quality through designation, by the Board after public hearing, as Category 1 Waters.*" UAC R317-2-3.2
- E. **Category 2 Waters** "*are designated surface water segments which are treated as Category 1 Waters except that a point source discharge may be permitted provided that the discharge does not degrade existing water quality.*" UAC R317-2-3.3
- F. **Designated Beneficial Uses** means a water's present most reasonable uses, grouped by use classes to protect the uses against controllable pollution. Beneficial uses designated within each class are described in Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-2-6 and waterbodies beneficial uses can be found in UAC R317-2-13.
- G. **Existing Uses** "*means those uses actually attained in a water body on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are included in the water quality standards.*" UAC R317-1-1. "*If a situation is found where there is an existing use which is a higher use (i.e., more stringent protection requirements) than that current designated use, the Director will apply the water quality standards and anti-degradation policy to protect the existing use.*" UAC R317-2-3.
- H. **Level I Antidegradation Review (ADR):** "*is conducted to insure that existing uses will be maintained and protected.*" UAC R317-2-3.5
- I. **Level II Antidegradation Review (ADR)** is conducted to insure that water quality degradation is necessary and that the proposed activity is documented to be both economically and socially important. Level II ADRs are required for any activity that's impacts are not considered temporary and limited and is likely to result in degradation of water quality.
- J. **Project Proponent** "*means the applicant for license or permit or entity seeking certification.*" 40 CFR §121.1.
- K. **Protection Category:** "*Utah's surface waters are assigned to one of three protection categories that are determined by their existing biological, chemical and physical integrity, and by the interest of stakeholders in protecting current conditions.*" Utah Antidegradation Review Implementation Guidance (V 2.1)
- L. **Temporal Loss:** "*is the time lag between the loss of aquatic resource functions caused by the permitted impacts and the replacement of aquatic resource functions at the compensatory mitigation site.*" 40 CFR 230.92
- M. **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** "*means the maximum amount of a particular pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet state water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources.*" UAC R317-1-1
- N. **Waters of the United States (WOTUS)** means waterbodies subject to the provisions of the Clean Water Act.
- O. **303(d) list** is a state's list of impaired and threatened waters, including but not limited to; streams, lakes, and reservoirs adopted to implement the Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

## II. Acronyms

AU – Assessment Unit  
BMPs – Best Management Practices  
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CWA – Clean Water Act  
CY – cubic yards  
DEQ – Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
DWQ – Utah Division of Water Quality  
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
LOP – Letter of Permission  
mg/L – milligrams per liter  
MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System  
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act  
NOI – Notice of Intent  
NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units  
NWP – nationwide permit  
PEM – palustrine emergent  
RGP 8- Emergency Repair and Protection Activities  
ROW – right of way  
SWPPP – stormwater pollution prevention plan  
TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load  
TSS – total suspended solids  
UAC – Utah Administrative Code  
UPDES – Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
WQC – Water Quality Certification  
WQS – Utah Water Quality Standards  
WOTUS – Waters of the United States

### III. Executive Summary

Pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq., the DWQ grants Water Quality Certification (Certification) to The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District (USACE) for the proposed Regional General Permit (RGP) 8- Emergency Repair and Protection Activities (Project) in Nevada, Utah, and parts of California within the boundaries of the Sacramento District. Certification is subject to the conditions outlined in this document and adherence to any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Permit Conditions. The conditions outlined in this Certification are necessary to assure compliance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and/or other applicable laws and regulations adopted for state primacy of the CWA.

DWQ's conditions are based on and are necessary to comply with applicable state rules. Specifically, the following Utah rules represent overarching considerations that require the conditions outlined by this document to apply to the USACE Section 404 Permit: Utah's rules promulgating standards of quality for waters of the State affirm "*it shall be unlawful and a violation of these rules for any person to discharge or place any wastes or other substances in such manner as may interfere with designated uses protected by assigned classes or to cause any of the applicable standards to be violated*" UAC R317-2-7.1.a. Additionally, "*all actions to control waste discharges under these rules shall be modified as necessary to protect downstream designated uses*" UAC R317-2-8. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge "*impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6*" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., "*exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7*" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2. or "*fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7*" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

USACE submitted a pre-filing meeting request to DWQ for 401 Certification for the RGP 8 re-issue on May 24, 2023. DWQ attended a pre-filing meeting on June 22, 2023. A Section 401 Certification Request was submitted to

DWQ on June, 26 2023 on behalf of the USACE by Michael Nepstad. The reasonable period of time to act on this water quality certification request is 60 days. DWQ has until August 26, 2023 to waive, deny or issue a 401 Certification.

#### **IV. Background**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District (the Project Proponent), is proposing to modify and re-issue the Regional General Permit (RGP) 8 (the Project). The RGP 8 Permit is designated for Emergency Repair and Protection Activities. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 requires that regulated activities conducted below the Ordinary High-Water elevation of navigable waters of the United States must be approved/permited by the USACE. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires authorization from the USACE for the discharge of dredged or fill material into all Waters of the United States (WOTUS) including wetlands. The Project Proponent requests a Blanket 401 Certification for Permittees that acquire the RGP 8 Permit. The Department of Water Quality (DWQ) issued a Blanket 401 Certification for the 2018 RGP 8 Permit. This is a re-issue of a 401 Certification for the modified 2023 RGP 8 Permit. The original RGP 8 Permit was first issued as RGP 60 in January 1998. The RGP 60 Permit was revised in 2015 and re-issued as RGP 8. The proposed RGP 8 Permit (the Project), would authorize permanent or temporary discharge of dredged and /or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, for repair or protection activities for which the USACE has determined that an emergency situation exists. The activities authorized under the RGP 8 include but are not limited to; bank stabilization, restoration of damaged areas, temporary fills for dewatering and construction access, and repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of existing structures and fills, such as utility and wastewater systems, pipelines, flood control structures and features, irrigation pumps or intakes, roads, and bridges. The RGP 8 Permit was issued by the USACE approximately 34 times in Utah from 2018 to 2023. Bank stabilization and Dredging were the primary types of activity for issuing the RGP 8 Permit. Any permittee authorized by the RGP 8 Permit must comply with the general terms and conditions listed within the following Blanket RGP 8 Section 401 Water Quality Certification when conducting activities within the State of Utah. The RGP 8 Permit as well as the Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be effective for five years from the issuance date.

The USACE is proposing to re-issue the RGP 8 Permit with minor changes. The USACE has made the following more significant modifications to the **Terms** and **Conditions** to the re-issue RGP 8 Permit.

- 1.) Initiation of Construction was expanded to include: if there is a threat to life or property or potential economic hardship, the Corps may informally authorize the activities under RGP via email and subsequently complete agency coordination, which may contain special conditions.
- 2.) New bank stabilization activities: shall be done using nature-based bank stabilization techniques unless determined to be not practicable by the Region 8 office. Bank stabilization must not be more than 1,000 feet along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high-water mark or the high-tide line, unless this office waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.
- 3.) Initiation of Construction: was altered to include; if the nature of the threat to life or property, or the potential economic hardship, requires immediate action, the Corps may informally authorize the activities under the RGP 8 via email, and subsequently complete agency coordination and formal authorization, which may contain special conditions.
- 4.) Avoidance and Minimization: statement changed and the condition that return water from the upland disposal area shall not be allowed to enter the WOTUS and must be contained within the disposal area or with applicable water management/containment equipment was eliminated.
- 5.) Post Review Discover: was changed to Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts. The condition was altered to include cultural and artifacts discovery. The permittee must, to the maximum extent

practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed.

6.) Spawning Areas: the statement was expanded to include activities that result in the physical destruction of an important spawning area not authorized.

7.) Migratory Bird Breeding Areas: the permittee is now responsible for ensuring action authorized under this permit complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee shall contact the appropriate local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office to reduce effects and obtain permits if necessary.

8.) Proper Maintenance: was changed to include that the project activity must be maintained in good condition. The permittee is not relieved of this duty if the activity is abandoned or sold. If you wish to cease, abandon or transfer the project, you must obtain a modification of this permit from USACE, and may be required restoration of the area.

The following General Conditions have been added for the re-issue of the RGP 8 Permit:

1.) Adverse Effects from Impoundments: if the activity creates a temporary impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic ecosystem due to accelerating the passage of water and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

2.) Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains: the activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved State or local floodplain management requirements.

3.) Management of Water Flows: 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, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must 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 pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

The following General Conditions were removed for the re-issue of the RGP 8:

1.) Best Management Practices: BMPs that would prevent the displacement of fill material, weekly inspection, and maintenance before activities begin and until activities are completed, and site soils are stabilized.

2.) Project Limits: clear visible markers that identify the limits of the authorized activity.

3.) Equipment: maintenance of heavy equipment and site management of such use of equipment to minimize soil and vegetation compaction and/ or disturbance.

4.) Obstruction of High Flows: the project shall not restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flow in affected aquatic resources.

The following changes were made to the Notification Procedures;

1.) Notification shall be submitted electronically, not in writing

2.) A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset the effects of the action. Consistent with the nature and scope of the proposed action, the description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat.

3.) A map or description of all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the federal action, and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.

4.) Information obtained by or in the possession of the federal agency and any applicant on the listed species and designated critical habitat in the action area, including available information such as the



presence, abundance, density, or periodic occurrence of listed species and the condition and location of the species' habitat, including any critical habitat.

5.) A description of the effects of the action and an analysis of any cumulative effects.

## V. Certification Conditions

- A. The Project Proponent shall provide Director Notification and Review for any project with a potential discharge to Category 1 or Category 2 waters, or any proposed project within 500 feet of the existing waters' edge of the Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, and Bear Lake; in order to protect designated beneficial uses and assure that WQS are not violated.
- B. All activities with a potential discharge to WOTUS must implement and maintain BMPs to fully protect the waterbodies assigned beneficial use(s).
- C. All activities shall not cause further degradation of impaired waterbodies, as defined in DWQ's most recent 303(d) list, regardless of whether a TMDL has been completed. The Project Proponent must review impairments on the waterbodies where the Project has the potential to discharge and is responsible for ensuring that water quality standards are not exceeded and designated beneficial uses are not impaired.
- D. Hazardous and otherwise deleterious materials (e.g. oil, gasoline, chemicals, trash, sawdust, soils, etc.) shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated or conveyed through adjacent to or in immediate vicinity WOTUS unless adequate measures and controls are provided to ensure those materials would not enter WOTUS in the State of Utah. **Any spill or discharge of oil or other substance which may cause pollution to WOTUS in the State of Utah, including wetlands, must be immediately reported to the Utah DEQ Hotline at (801) 536-4123, a 24-hour phone number.**
- E. Project Proponents conducting activities in or immediately adjacent to WOTUS in the State of Utah with assigned beneficial use class 1C (domestic drinking water), that are upstream 2 miles or less from any intake 6 supply, must notify the water supply operator and the local health department prior to commencement of work. If the water supply operator or the local health department recommends additional BMPs or monitoring, the Project Proponent must consider those recommendations in their project design.
- F. Waterbodies classified as beneficial use class 2B for recreation and 3A for cold water aquatic life cannot increase water turbidity by more than 10 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs). Project activities shall not cause an increase in water turbidity by more than 15 NTUS in waterbodies classified as beneficial use class 3D.
- G. All activities conducted in or immediately adjacent to WOTUS in the State of Utah with assigned beneficial use class 3A (cold water fishery) or has blue ribbon fishery designation must avoid removal of native riparian vegetation that provides stream shading to the maximum extent practicable. Any Projects that approve removal of riparian vegetation that provides shade must require reestablishment of native vegetation that provides equal or greater shade. The Project Proponent shall provide successful reestablishment of native vegetation.

- H. All activities conducted in WOTUS in the State of Utah shall be conducted in the “dry” to the maximum extent practicable, by diverting flow utilizing cofferdams, berms constructed of sandbags, clean rock (containing no fine sediment) or other non-erodible, non-toxic material. All diversion materials shall be removed at the completion of the work. The Project Proponent shall consider conducting instream work during low flow conditions and work shall not be conducted during spawning season. Additionally, construction machinery shall not be operated within WOTUS in the State of Utah unless it is unavoidable, in which case it shall be conducted in the “dry” as stated above. The work shall be conducted in a manner to minimize the duration of the disturbance, turbidity increases, substrate disturbance, and minimize the removal of riparian vegetation. Construction machinery shall be clean to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species.
- I. Construction activities that disturb either greater than one acre of land, or less than one acre of land and is part of a larger common plan of development that would disturb greater than one acre, are required to obtain coverage under the Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Storm Water General Permit for Construction Activities (Permit No. UTRC00000<sup>[1]</sup>). The permit requires the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be implemented and updated from the commencement of any soil disturbing activities at the site, until final stabilization of the project. The SWPPP should include, but not be limited to, final site maps and legible plans, location of storm water outfalls/discharges, and information pertaining to any storm water retention requirements.
- J. Dewatering activities, if necessary during construction, may require coverage under the UPDES General Permit for Construction Dewatering (Permit No. UTG070000<sup>[2]</sup>) applies to the construction dewatering of uncontaminated groundwater or surface water sources due to construction activities; hydrostatic testing of pipelines or other fluids vessels; water used in disinfection of drinking water vessels; and other similar discharges in the State of Utah that have no discharge of process wastewater. The permit requires submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI); maintenance of a discharge log; development and implementation of a dewatering control plan; and monitoring for Flow, Oil & Grease, pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Chlorine (required when chlorinated water is used and discharged to a stream with a chlorine standard). Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are required to be submitted monthly, regardless of whether a site discharges in a particular month.

## VI. Condition Justification and Citation

- A. Director Notification and Review is a condition for projects identified in Part V(1) above which present an increased likelihood of jeopardizing designated beneficial uses or otherwise causing a violation of WQS, promulgated pursuant to Utah Code Sections 19-5-104, 19-5-110 and Section 303 of the Clean Water Act. Director Notification will allow the DWQ to consider water-body specific factors that are not otherwise considered by RGP 8 Permits. In support of cooperative federalism, the DWQ conditions approval of RGP 8 Permits identified in Part V(1) above on Director Notification, rather than denying all RGP 8 Permits with potential to discharge to Category 1 and Category 2 Waters, to avoid unnecessary burden to applicants

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/water-quality/stormwater/construction/DWQ-2020-013890.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/water-quality/permits/updes/DWQ-2019-005143.pdf>

that would be associated with a blanket requirement for individual certification requests for all identified projects in Category 1 and Category 2 waters.

The opportunity to review projects that discharge to Category 1 and Category 2 waters allows the DWQ to assure that WQS will be met without automatically requiring a certification request to the Director directly from the project proponent. Director Notification would take substantially less time than requiring an individual certification request and associated pre-filing meeting. The Director will provide one of the following responses within two weeks;

- (i) The DWQ has determined the project will likely have minimal impact to water quality, pending the project proponent's consideration of any written comments,

or in infrequent cases

- (ii) The DWQ has determined that the project requires individual certification to adequately protect designated beneficial uses, prevent violation of WQS, or prevent antidegradation. The DWQ reserves the right to require an individual 401 Certification in rare circumstances where the DWQ determines there is a potential for adverse water quality impacts.

Projects with potential discharges to Category 1 and Category 2 waters or within 500 feet of the existing waters' edge of the Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, and Bear Lake are conditioned on Director Notification and Review in order to ensure that the Utah DWQ's Antidegradation Policies are being implemented effectively. Category 1 waters are "waters which have been determined by the Board to be of exceptional recreational or ecological significance or have been determined to be a State or National resource requiring protection, shall be maintained at existing high quality through designation, by the Board after public hearing, as Category 1 Waters." UAC R317-2-3.2. Category 2 waters "are designated surface water segments which are treated as Category 1 Waters except that a point source discharge may be permitted provided that the discharge does not degrade existing water quality." UAC R317-2-3.3<sup>3</sup>. Discharges may be allowed in Category 1 and Category 2 waters "where pollution will be temporary and limited after consideration of the factors in UAC R317-2-.3.5.b.4., and where best management practices will be employed to minimize pollution effects." UAC R317-2-3.2 and UAC R317-2-3.3.

Although RGP 8 Permits are typically issued for projects with minimal impacts to water quality, the RGP 8 Permits do not take into consideration the quality of the water affected. In order to comply with the Antidegradation Policy outlined by UAC R317-2-3.5.b.4, requiring that pollution to Category 1 and Category 2 waters be temporary and limited, the DWQ must review all projects with the potential to discharge to those waters. Without the ability to review the individual projects proposing to discharge to Category 1 and Category 2 waters, the DWQ cannot assure that they will meet the antidegradation policy or other applicable water quality requirements. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge "impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., "exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2. or "fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3 when making a certification decision. Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.2., UAC R317-2-3.3. , UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://documents.deq.utah.gov/water-quality/monitoring-reporting/integrated-report/DWQ-2022-002386.pdf>

- B. Implementation of BMPs. Project approval is conditioned on implementation of BMPs, which are required to be implemented by the antidegradation policy in UAC R317-2-3, water quality standards may be violated unless appropriate BMPs are incorporated to minimize the erosion-sediment and nutrient load. Violations of water quality standards could cause a waterbody to fail to meet its designated beneficial uses. As required by Utah’s antidegradation policy UAC R317-2-3.1 “*Existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing instream water uses.*” As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge “*impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6*” UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., “*exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7*” UAC R317-15-6.1A.2. or “*fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7*” UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3 when making a Certification decision. If appropriate BMPs are incorporated, there is assurance that the Project will not violate water quality standards or impair a waterbody’s beneficial use.

Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.1, UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

- C. Protection of Impaired Waterbodies. Waters that are impaired and conjunctively on Utah’s most up to date 303(d) list are not currently meeting their designated beneficial uses. According to Utah’s most recent Integrated Report<sup>3</sup> the waters identified as impaired are not meeting their designated beneficial uses because “the concentration of the pollutant- or several pollutants- exceeds numeric water quality criteria, or quantitative biological assessments indicate that the biological designated uses are not supported (Narrative water quality standards are violated).” Utah’s antidegradation policy states “existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing instream water uses.” UAC R317-2-3.1. In order to ensure that proposed Project meets Utah’s antidegradation policy and that discharges do not further degrade water quality the Project Proponent needs to be aware of the waterbodies assessment, more specifically if the waterbody is impaired and listed on Utah’s most current 303(d) list. If the potential discharge contains pollutants/parameters that the waterbody is listed as impaired for, the Project Proponent needs to take extra precautions to minimize and prevent discharges that could further degrade the waterbodies and prevent the waterbodies from meeting its beneficial and existing uses. Typical pollutants associated with USACE Section 404 permits (e.g. sediment), especially when a waterbody proposed for discharge is impaired, could cause applicable water quality standards to be violated, if appropriate measures are taken. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge “impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6” UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., “exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7” UAC R317-15-6.1A.2. or “fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7” UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3. when making a certification decision.

Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.1, UAC R317-2.1.a., UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

- D. Proper Storage of Hazardous and Otherwise Deleterious Materials. Project approval is conditioned on proper storage of hazardous and otherwise deleterious materials, and notification of any discharge of those materials, to assure that water quality and narrative standards are not violated. When projects are occurring in or around waterbodies, there is a chance for pollutants to inadvertently be spilled/discharged into waterbodies due to increased risk from project related activities (e.g. presence of machinery, onsite

chemical and gas storage, improper waste storage, and failure to use proper BMPs). To prevent or reduce the possibility that hazardous and otherwise deleterious materials are inadvertently discharged into a waterbody, Project Proponents must not store, dispose of, or accumulated such materials adjacent to or in immediate vicinity of WOTUS unless adequate measures and controls are provided to ensure those materials would not enter waters of the State. If there is a discharge to WOTUS in the State of Utah, it must be immediately reported to the DEQ, as stated in Utah Code Section 19-5-114. An inadvertent discharge of pollutants can cause violations with Utah's Narrative Standards, which states "*It shall be unlawful, and a violation of these rules, for any person to discharge or place any waste or other substance in such a way as will be or may become offensive such as unnatural deposits, floating debris, oil, scum or other nuisances such as color, odor or taste; or cause conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life or which produce objectionable tastes in edible aquatic organisms; or result in concentrations or combinations of substances which produce undesirable physiological responses in desirable resident fish, or other desirable aquatic life, or undesirable human health effects, as determined by bioassay or other tests performed in accordance with standard procedures; or determined by biological assessments in Subsection R317-2-7.3*" UAC R317-3-7.2. Utah's rules promulgating standards of quality for waters of the State affirm "*it shall be unlawful and a violation of these rules for any person to discharge or place any wastes or other substances in such manner as may interfere with designated uses protected by assigned classes or to cause any of the applicable standards to be violated*" UAC R317-2-7.1.a. Discharges of pollutants, even inadvertently, could cause both a violation of applicable water quality standards and possibly interfere with a waterbodies designated uses.

Citation(s): Utah Code § 19-5-114, UAC R317-3-7.2, UAC R317-2-7.1.A, UAC R317-15-6.1., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., UAC R317-15-6.1A.2.

- E. Notification to water supply operators and local health departments is a condition of project approval for all projects in or immediately adjacent to WOTUS with assigned class 1C for domestic drinking water upstream two miles or less from any intake supply. As stated in Utah's antidegradation policy UAC R317-2-3.5.d "depending upon the locations of the discharge and its proximity to downstream drinking water diversions, additional treatment or more stringent effluent limits or additional monitoring, beyond that which may otherwise be required to meet minimum technology standards or in stream WQS [water quality standards], may be required by the Director in order to adequately protect public health and the environment. The additional treatment/effluent limits/monitoring which may be required will be determined by the Director after consultation with the Division of Drinking Water and the downstream drinking water users." UAC R317-2-3.5.d. These additional requirements are necessary to ensure that beneficial use class 1C is maintained in the waterbody proposed for discharge or in some cases, protection of the downstream waterbodies designated beneficial use, when classified as 1C. Should the Project Proponent refuse to work with the local health department and water supply operators, the Director may request an individual Certification Request and issue additional requirements in consultation with the operator, the public health departments, and the Division of Drinking water in order to maintain the designated beneficial use. Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.5.d, UAC R317-2-7.1.a, UAC R317-2-8., UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1, UAC R317-15-6.1A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3
- F. Turbidity Increases. Beneficial uses associated with recreation and aquatic life have been assigned numeric criteria for turbidity. An increase of more than 10 NTUs in class 2B and 3A waterbodies above the turbidity of that waterbody would be a violation of instream criteria for waterbodies that have recreation or aquatic life uses. Similarly, an increase of more than 15 NTUs in class 3D waterbodies above the turbidity of that waterbody would be a violation of instream criteria for waterbodies that have aquatic life uses. UAC R317-

2-14.1 and UAC R317-2-14.2. Therefore, turbidity increases above those allowed by this Certification could cause the waterbody to fail to meet its designated beneficial use classes. Utah's antidegradation policy states "existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing instream water uses" UAC R317-2-3.1. Failure to minimize turbidity increases that result in the failure to maintain beneficial use class 2B or 3A would be considered a violation of Utah's rules and promulgated standards of quality for waters of the State, specifically Utah's antidegradation policy found at UAC R317-2-3. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge "impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., "exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1A.2. or "fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3 when making a certification decision.

Citations: UAC R317-2-3.1, UAC R317-2-3, UAC R317-2-14.1, UAC R317-2-14.2 R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1, UAC R317-15-6.1A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

- G. Vegetation Preservation and Reestablishment in Fisheries. Project approval is conditioned on avoiding vegetation removal to the maximum extent practicable in or immediately adjacent to WOTUS used as fisheries in order to maintain existing beneficial use. Waterbodies with beneficial use class 3A (cold water fishery) or waterbodies with a blue ribbon fishery designation rely heavily on the available stream cover/shade to maintain designated beneficial uses. Riparian vegetation supplies necessary shade to stabilize water temperatures in streams. Removal of riparian vegetation, without reestablishment, could cause a waterbody not to maintain beneficial use 3A or its blue ribbon fishery designation. Utah's antidegradation policy states "existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing instream water uses." UAC R317-2-3.1. Failure to minimize riparian vegetation removal and failure to reestablish riparian vegetation which results in the failure to maintain beneficial use class 3A would be considered a violation of Utah's rules promulgating standards of quality for waters of the State, more specifically Utah's antidegradation policy found at UAC R317-2-3. Additionally, the loss of riparian vegetation could cause a violation of the instream numeric criteria for temperature, which is listed as 20°C with a maximum temperature change of 2°C for beneficial use class 3A. UAC R317-2-14.2. If the temperature of the waterbody increases, there is a potential for instream water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen to be violated. Temperature and dissolved oxygen have an inverse relationship, where temperature increases then dissolved oxygen decreases, so an increase in temperature could cause a decrease in dissolved oxygen, and possibly a violation of the instream criteria for dissolved oxygen. The instream criteria for dissolved oxygen for beneficial use class 3A is a minimum of 8.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) when early life stages are present and 4.0 mg/L when all other life stages are present. UAC R317-2-14.2. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge "impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., "exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1A.2. or "fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7" UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3 when making a certification decision.

Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.1., UAC R317-2-3., UAC R317-2-14.2., UAC R317-2-14.2., UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1, UAC R317-15-6.1A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3

H. Dry Conditions to the Maximum Extent Practicable. Project approval is conditioned on conducting activities under dry conditions to the maximum extent practicable to assure that water quality standards are not exceeded. Construction machinery used within a waterbody can cause significant impacts to water quality if adequate precautions are not taken. When it is unavoidable to operate construction machinery within the waterbody the Project Proponent should focus on minimizing the duration of the disturbance, turbidity increase, substrate disturbance, removal of riparian vegetation, and work shall be conducted in the “dry” to the maximum extent practicable. Minimizing the duration of impact reduces the chance that the impacts will accumulate and cause significant impacts to water quality. Minimizing turbidity increases is important because the State of Utah has numeric water quality criteria for turbidity in certain use designations, which could be violated if the Project Proponent does not take proper steps to minimize the increases. Water quality criteria for turbidity will be violated if there is an increase of 10 NTUs in waterbodies with designated uses related to recreation and if there is an increase of 10 NTUs (class 3A and 3B) or 15 NTUs (class 3C and 3D) in waterbodies with aquatic wildlife designated uses. UAC R317-2-14.1 and UAC R317-2-14.2. Conducting work in the “dry” to the maximum extent practicable will help reduce the risk of the numeric criteria for turbidity to be exceeded, as well as reduce the risk of a significant sediment load being transported downstream. Discharges of sediment can not only violate numeric criteria, but also, risk violating Utah’s narrative standard *“It shall be unlawful, and a violation of these rules, for any person to discharge or place any waste or other substance in such a way as will be or may become offensive such as unnatural deposits, floating debris, oil, scum or other nuisances such as color, odor or taste; or cause conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life or which produce objectionable tastes in edible aquatic organisms; or result in concentrations or combinations of substances which produce undesirable physiological responses in desirable resident fish, or other desirable aquatic life, or undesirable human health effects, as determined by bioassay or other tests performed in accordance with standard procedures; or determined by biological assessments in Subsection R317-2-7.3.”* UAC R317-2-7.2. Violations of numeric and narrative criteria could cause a waterbody not to meet its designated beneficial use and a transport of sediment downstream could prevent a downstream waterbody from meeting its designated beneficial uses. As required by Utah’s antidegradation policy UAC R317-2-3.1 *“Existing instream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing instream water uses”*. Additionally, *“All actions to control waste discharges under these rules shall be modified as necessary to protect downstream designated uses”* UAC R317-2-8. As stated in UAC R317-15-6.1 the Director will ordinarily consider whether the proposed discharge *“impairs the designated beneficial use classifications (e.g., aquatic life, drinking water, recreation) in Section R317-2-6”* UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1., *“exceeds water quality criteria, either narrative or numeric, in Section R317-2-7”* UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2. or *“fails to meet the antidegradation (ADR) requirements of Section R317-2-7”* UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3 when making a certification decision.

Citation(s): UAC R317-2-3.5., UAC R317-2-7.1.A., UAC R317-2-14.1, UAC R317-2-14.2., UAC R317-2-7.1.a., UAC R317-2-7.2., UAC R317-2-3.1, UAC R317-2-8. , UAC R317-15-6.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.1, UAC R317-15-6.1.A.2., UAC R317-15-6.1.A.3.

I. UPDES Storm Water General Permit for Construction Activities (Permit No. UTRC00000). UAC R317-8-2.5, gives the Director authority to issue general permits to cover specific categories of discharges, including storm water and construction dewatering that is discharged to a surface water. According to UAC R317-8-3.9 (6)(d), construction activities that result in a land disturbance of equal to or greater than one acre, including clearing, grading, and excavation are “industrial activities” under UAC R317-8-3.9(1)(a)

and are therefore required to obtain and comply with a UPDES Permit for storm water discharges. This only applies to projects that meet or exceed one acre of disturbance.

Citation(s): UAC R317-8-3.9(6)(d) and UAC R317-8-3.9(1)(a)

- J. UPDES General Permit for Construction Dewatering (Permit No. UTG070000). UAC R317-8-2.5, gives the Director authority to issue general permits to cover specific categories of discharges, including storm water and construction dewatering that is discharged to a surface water. Under the authority granted by UAC R317-8-2.5, the Director issued the General Permit for Construction Dewatering and Hydrostatic Testing, UPDES Permit No. UTG070000 renewed and effective as of February 1, 2020. UPDES Permit No. UTG070000 applies to construction dewatering of uncontaminated groundwater or surface water sources due to construction activities, hydrostatic testing of pipelines or other fluids vessels, water used in disinfection of drinking water vessels and other similar discharges in the State of Utah that have no discharge of process wastewater. This only applies to projects that require dewatering and discharge to surface water.

Citation(s): UAC R317-8-2.5

## **VII. Disclaimers**

### **A. Fees**

1. The legislatively-mandated fee for the 2023 fiscal year is \$110.00/hour for review and issuance of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification. A quarterly invoice will be sent and your payment is due within 30 days.

### **B. Disclaimers**

1. The Project Proponent must acquire all necessary easements, access authorizations and permits to ensure they are able to implement the Project. This Section 401 Certification does not convey any property rights or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize access or injury to private property.
2. This Section 401 Certification does not preclude the Project Proponent's responsibility of complying with all applicable Federal, State or local laws, regulations or ordinances, including water quality standards. Permit coverage does not release the project proponent from any liability or penalty, should violations to the permit terms and conditions or Federal or State Laws occur.
3. A Project within a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) jurisdiction, must comply with all the conditions required in that UPDES MS4 Permit and associated ordinances. No condition of this Section 401 Certification shall reduce or minimize any requirements provided in the MS4 Permit. In the case of conflicting requirements, the most stringent criteria shall apply.

## **VIII. Public Notice and Comments**

As Stated in UAC R317-15-5., this Certification decision is subject to a 30 public notice period. Per UAC R317-15-5 draft certification decisions are subject to a thirty (30) day public notice. UAC R317-15-5.1 allows for the 30 public notice period to be lengthened or shortened for a good cause, which includes those projects that are routinely granted, a re-issue, and any proposed activity is considered minor. The project proponent is seeking a re-issue Blanket 401 Certification for RGP 8 Permits.

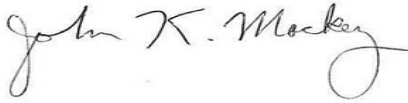


Therefore, the DWQ has reduced the public notice permit to **14 days (2 weeks)**. After considering public comment, the Director may execute the Certification issuance, revise it, or abandon it.

- A. **Public Notice Dates: July 27, 2023, to August 10, 2023.**
- B. Public Notice Comments/Response: None received.
- C. During finalization of the Certification certain dates, spelling edits, and minor language or formatting corrections may have been completed. Due to the nature of these changes they were not considered major and the Certification will not be Public Noticed again.

**IX. Water Quality Certification**

The Utah DWQ certifies that if the Project Proponents adhere to the conditions outlined in this Certification and adheres to any USACE Section 404 Permit Conditions, then the Project will comply with water quality requirements and applicable provisions of the CWA sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards).



\_\_\_\_\_  
John K. Mackey, P.E. Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 08/21/2023

DWQ-2023-06003