

Categorical Permission Alteration Description – 17. Research and Monitoring

The categorical permission covers the installation, operation, and replacement of scientific devices whose purpose is to measure and record data, including staff gauges, tide and current gauges, meteorological stations, water quality and chemical and biological observation devices. Piezometer installation is not covered under this alteration description. See Alteration Description 2: Borings, Explorations, and Instrumentation for piezometers.

Also covered by the categorical permission are sonar, seismic, and other acoustic surveys, including installation, operation, replacement, and removal of equipment. Monitoring and exploration for natural resources are included. Fish and wildlife harvesting, enhancement, and study activities are covered, including fyke and screw fish traps, electrofishing, and netting.

All installation and operation should be designed to minimize adverse effects to the federal project and environment. For example, floating measuring devices must be securely anchored or tethered; deployment should be for the shortest time possible to achieve the desired goal; for longer term projects/research, regular inspections are necessary to ensure that the device(s) remain serviceable and intact. A device inspection schedule and a plan for navigational aids must be provided.

Upon completion of monitoring, the measuring device(s) and any associated structures and equipment (e.g., foundations, anchors, buoys, and lines) must be removed and the site restored to pre-alteration conditions.

To prevent damage to the levees, heavy equipment (e.g., backhoes) required for research and monitoring activities is not allowed on levees when heavy rainfall has occurred or if the levee is saturated.

The requester must verify that monitoring devices and associated equipment would not disrupt overhead wires or interfere with the public's access to navigation and/or recreation.

Categorical Permission Alteration Checklist – 17. Research and Monitoring

Please note, the following checklist is intended for planning purposes only and reflects information that USACE reviewers will look for when considering a Section 408 request for research and monitoring under the Categorical Permission. To be reviewed under the Categorical Permission, the proposed project must adhere to all requirements of the Categorical Permission, including the full alteration description (see previous page). The plans and narrative project description should reflect this information.

Floating measurement devices securely anchored or tethered: Yes NA

Device inspection schedule and a plan for navigational aids submitted: Yes NA

Measuring device(s) and any associated structures and equipment will be removed and the site restored to pre-alteration conditions:

Monitoring devices and associated equipment will not disrupt overhead wires or interfere with the public's access to navigation and/or recreation:

All work above the DWSE? Yes No

Any work occurring >3 feet into the levee embankment? Yes No

Any work below the DWSE? Yes No

Any work occurring \geq 12 inches into the levee embankment? Yes No

Hydraulic blockage calculation \geq 1%? Yes No

Hydraulic model used for hydraulic analysis? Yes No