

Categorical Permission Alteration Description – 2. Borings, Levee Explorations and Instrumentation

The categorical permission covers geotechnical and similar borings, exploratory activities, as well as instrumentation. Work may be conducted within the levee embankment, adjacent to the levee toe, and/or in the floodway. Borings and levee explorations include, but are not limited to, conventional geotechnical borings, cone penetration testing, hydrovac excavation, potholing, trenching, and cultural inventories. A maximum of 25 borings or explorations per proposed alteration may be covered by the categorical permission. Instrumentation such as piezometer or inclinometer installation, and associated equipment used to monitor or test the levee and/or floodway is included in this alteration.

Borings in the levee and/or the levee foundation will require a Drilling Program Plan in accordance with ER 1110-1-1807 *Drilling in Embankments*, as part of the technical review of the proposed alteration.

All drilling should be designed to minimize the need for drilling fluid in the levee and/or the levee foundation, reducing the possibility of damage.

The requester must discontinue drilling and place grout or bentonite seals in all open borings, trenches, and other excavations if the river approaches flood stage. Drilling or other explorations should not begin if the river is approaching flood stage. The requester must keep borehole sealing materials and equipment at the site before drilling begins, in preparation for unexpected river stage increases.

Open boreholes and excavations cannot be left unattended for more than 24 hours and all open boreholes should be sealed before leaving the construction site at the end of a work week.

Boreholes that are awaiting backfill should be covered to prevent entry by small animals.

The requester must verify that drilling equipment will not disrupt overhead wires.

Categorical Permission Alteration Checklist – 2. Borings, Levee Explorations and Instrumentation

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 borings, levee explorations and instrumentation 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.

Maximum of 25 borings, explorations, etc.:

Borings in levee and/or levee foundation have a Drilling Program Plan: Yes NA

Borehole sealing materials and equipment will be kept at the site before drilling begins: Yes
NA

Open boreholes and excavations will not be left unattended for more than 24 hours:

Drilling equipment will not disrupt overhead wires: Yes NA

Any work on the levee slope or within 15 feet of the levee toe? Yes No