

storage expected from the disturbed areas must be included and a marker installed signifying when sediment accumulation has reduced the wet storage volume by 50%.

- i) The director may require revisions to the [SWPPP](#) necessary to prevent a negative impact to legally protected state or federally listed aquatic fauna, their habitat or the receiving waters.

5.4.2. Water quality riparian buffer zone requirements

Sites that contain, or are adjacent to, receiving waters with unavailable parameters or Exceptional Tennessee Waters shall preserve a 60-foot natural water quality riparian [buffer zone](#) adjacent to the receiving stream. The buffer zone shall be preserved to the maximum extent practicable during construction activities at the site. The water quality riparian [buffer](#) is required to protect [waters of the state](#), as identified using Tennessee's standard operating procedures for hydrologic determinations set forth in Rule [0400-40-03-.05\(9\)](#), located within, or immediately adjacent to, the boundaries of the project.⁵ Because of heavy sediment load associated with construction site runoff, water quality riparian buffers are not primary sediment control measures and should not be relied on as such. The primary purpose of water quality riparian buffers is additional pollutant removal. Stormwater discharges must enter the water quality riparian buffer as sheet flow, not as concentrated flow, where site conditions allow. Rehabilitation and enhancement of a natural water quality riparian [buffer zone](#) is allowed, if necessary, to improve its effectiveness in protecting [waters of the state](#).

The natural water quality riparian [buffer zone](#) should be preserved between the top of stream bank and the disturbed construction area. The 60-foot criterion for the width of the [buffer](#) can be established on an average width basis at a project, as long as the minimum width of the [buffer](#) is more than 30 feet at any measured location. If the construction site encompasses both sides of a stream, buffer averaging can be applied to both sides, but must be applied independently.

Every attempt should be made for construction activities not to take place within the water quality riparian [buffer zone](#) and for existing forested areas to be preserved. Where it is not practicable to maintain a full water quality riparian buffer, or if the construction site is located in an MS4 jurisdiction and would qualify for a smaller permanent water quality riparian buffer due to the size of the drainage area, then [BMPs](#) providing equivalent protection to a receiving stream as a natural riparian zone may be used at a construction site. Equivalent [BMPs](#) shall be designed to be as effective in protecting the receiving stream from the impacts of stormwater runoff as a natural water quality riparian [buffer zone](#). A justification for use and a design of equivalent [BMPs](#) shall be included in the [SWPPP](#). Such equivalent [BMPs](#) are expected to be routinely used at construction projects typically located adjacent to surface waters. These projects may include: sewer line construction, roadway construction, utility line or equipment installation, greenway construction, construction of a permanent outfall or a velocity dissipating structure.

This requirement does not apply to an area that is being altered under the authorization of a valid [Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit](#) (ARAP), or equivalent permits issued by federal authorities. Additional natural [buffer zone](#) requirements may be established by the local [MS4](#) program.

⁵ If obtaining permit coverage for the first time following the effective date of this permit, 15-foot buffers are also required for any wet weather conveyance identified as waters of the United States by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency.

5.4.2.1. Water quality riparian buffer zone exemption based on existing uses

Water quality riparian buffer zones as described in Section 5.4.2 above shall not be required in portions of the buffer where certain land uses exist and are to remain in place according to the following:

- a) A use shall be considered existing if it was present within the buffer zone as of the date of the Notice of Intent for coverage under the CGP. Existing uses may include buildings, parking lots, roadways, utility lines and on-site sanitary sewage systems. Only the portion of the buffer zone that contains the footprint of the existing land use is exempt from buffer zones. Activities necessary to maintain uses are allowed provided that no additional vegetation is removed from the buffer zone.
- b) If an area with an existing land use is proposed to be converted to another use or the impervious surfaces located within the buffer area are being removed buffer zone requirements shall apply.

5.4.3. Pre-approved sites

Construction activity at sites that have been pre-approved before February 1, 2010, are exempt from the buffer requirements of Section 5.4.2 above. Evidence of pre-approval for highway projects shall be a final right-of-way plan and for other construction projects, the final design drawings with attached dated, written approval by the local, state or federal agency with authority to approve such design drawings for construction.

6. RETENTION, ACCESSIBILITY AND SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

6.1. Documents

The permittee shall retain copies of SWPPPs, reports required by this permit, records of all data used to complete the NOI and the NOT for a period of at least three years from the date the NOT is submitted. This period may be extended by written request of the director.

6.2. Accessibility and Retention of Records

The permittee shall retain a copy of the SWPPP and a copy of the permit at the construction site (or other local location accessible to the director and the public) from the date construction commences to the date of termination of permit coverage. Permittees with day-to-day operational control over SWPPP implementation shall have a copy of the SWPPP available at a central location onsite for the use of all operators and those identified as having responsibilities under the plan whenever they are on the construction site. The permittee shall maintain a copy of all records for a period of three years once coverage is terminated.

6.2.1. Posting information at the construction site

The initial site-wide permittee shall post a notice near the main entrance of the construction site accessible to the public with the following information:

- a) A copy of the NOC with the NPDES permit tracking number for the construction project.

- b) A name or company name; E-mail address (if available); telephone number and address of the project site owner/operator or a local contact person.
- c) A brief description of the project.
- d) The location of the [SWPPP](#) (see Section 3.3.3 above).

The notice must be maintained in a legible condition. The notice shall be posted in a local public building if posting this information near a main entrance is infeasible due to safety concerns or not accessible to the public. If the construction project is a [linear construction project](#) (e.g., pipeline or highway), the notice must be placed in a publicly accessible location near where construction is actively underway and moved as necessary. This permit does not provide the public with any right to trespass on a construction site for any reason, including inspection of a site. This permit does not require permittees to allow members of the public access to a construction site.

The permittee shall also retain following items in an appropriate location on-site:

- a) A rain gauge (or use a reference site for a record of daily precipitation),
- b) A copy of the twice weekly inspection reports,
- c) A documentation of quality assurance site assessments, if applicable (see Section 3.1.2 above).
- d) A copy of the site inspector's certification (e.g., [Fundamentals of Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Level 1](#) or Level 2, P.E., P.L.A., CPESC).

6.3. Electronic Submission of Documents

If the division notifies dischargers by mail, E-mail, public notice or by making information available on the world wide web of electronic forms or other report options that become available at a later date (e.g., electronic submission of forms), the [operators](#) may take advantage of those options to satisfy the NOI, NOT and other report notification requirements.

7. STANDARD PERMIT CONDITIONS

7.1. Duty to Comply

7.1.1. Duty to comply

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act (TWQCA) and is grounds for an enforcement action, permit termination, revocation and reissuance, modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application.

7.1.2. Penalties

Pursuant to [T.C.A. § 69-3-115](#) of The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, as amended:

- a) Any person who violates an effluent standard or limitation or a water quality standard established under this part ([T.C.A. § 69-3-101](#), et. seq.); violates the terms or conditions of this permit; fails to complete a filing requirement; fails to allow or perform an entry, inspection, monitoring or reporting requirement; violates a final determination or order of the board, panel or commissioner; or violates any other provision of this part or any rule

or regulation promulgated by the board, is subject to a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per day for each day during which the act or omission continues or occurs.

- b) Any person unlawfully polluting the [waters of the state](#) or violating or failing, neglecting, or refusing to comply with any of the provisions of this part ([T.C.A. § 69-3-101](#), et. seq.) commits a Class C misdemeanor. Each day upon which such violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.
- c) Any person who willfully and knowingly falsifies any records, information, plans, specifications, or other data required by the board or the commissioner, or who willfully and knowingly pollutes the [waters of the state](#), or willfully fails, neglects or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this part ([T.C.A. § 69-3-101](#), et. seq.) commits a Class E felony and shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or incarceration, or both.

7.1.3. Civil and criminal liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the discharger from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Notwithstanding this permit, the discharger shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the State of Tennessee, including but not limited to fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, notwithstanding this permit, it shall be the responsibility of the discharger to conduct stormwater discharge activities in a manner such that public or private nuisances or health hazards will not be created. Furthermore, nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the State of Tennessee from any legal action or relieve the discharger from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable state law or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

7.1.4. Liability under state law

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable local, state or federal law.

7.2. **Continuation of the Expired General Permit**

Permittees shall maintain coverage under this general permit until a new general permit is issued. Permittees who choose not to maintain coverage under the expired general permit, or are required to obtain an individual permit, must submit an application (U.S. EPA NPDES Forms [1](#) and [2F](#) and any other [applicable forms](#)) at least 180 days prior to expiration of this general permit. Permittees who are eligible and choose to be covered by the new general permit must submit an NOI by the date specified in that permit. Facilities that have not obtained coverage under this permit by the permit expiration date cannot become authorized to discharge under the continued permit.

[Operator\(s\)](#) of an existing site permitted under the division's 2011 construction general permit shall maintain full compliance with the existing [SWPPP](#). The existing [SWPPP](#) should be modified, if necessary, to meet requirements of this new general permit, and the [SWPPP](#) changes implemented no later than 12 months following the new permit effective date. The permittee shall make the updated [SWPPP](#) available for the division's review upon request.

7.3. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

7.4. Duty to Mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

7.5. Duty to Provide Information

The permittee shall furnish to the division or an authorized representative of the division, within a time specified by the division, any information that the division may request to determine compliance with this permit or other information relevant to the protection of the [waters of the state](#). The permittee shall also furnish to the division, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

7.6. Other Information

When the permittee becomes aware that he or she failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in the Notice of Intent or in any other report to the director, he or she shall promptly submit such facts or information.

7.7. Signatory Requirements

All NOIs, [SWPPPs](#), NOTs, Construction Stormwater Inspection Certifications, Construction Stormwater Monitoring Report forms, reports, certifications or information either submitted to the director or the [operator](#) of a large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system shall be signed as described in Sections 7.7.1 and 7.7.2 below and dated.

7.7.1. Signatory requirements for an NOI⁶

The NOI shall be signed as follows:

- a) For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means:
 - i. a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation, or
 - ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated site including having the explicit or implicit duty of

⁶ As specified in 40 CFR 122.22(a)(1)-(3) [48 FR 14153, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 48 FR 39619, Sept. 1, 1983; 49 FR 38047, Sept. 29, 1984; 50 FR 6941, Feb. 19, 1985; 55 FR 48063, Nov. 16, 1990; 65 FR 30907, May 15, 2000]

making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

- b) For a general partnership, by each general partner in the general partnership,
- c) For a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor,
- d) For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a Federal agency includes:
 - i. the chief executive officer of the agency, or
 - ii. a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principle geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrators of EPA).

NOTE: The division does not require specific assignments or delegations of authority to responsible corporate or municipal, state, federal, or other public agency officers. The division will presume that these officers have the requisite authority to sign permit applications unless the entity has notified the director to the contrary. Procedures governing authority to sign permit applications may provide for assignment or delegation to applicable positions rather than to specific individuals.

7.7.2. Signatory requirements for reports and other items

SWPPPs, Construction Stormwater Inspection Certification forms, reports, certifications or other information submittals required by the permit and other information requested by the division, including but not limited to Notice of Violation responses, shall be signed by a person described in Section 7.7.1 above, or by a duly authorized representative of that person.

7.7.3. Duly authorized representative

For a purpose of satisfying signatory requirements for reports (see Section 7.7.2 above), a person is a duly authorized representative only if:

- a) the authorization is made in writing by a person described in Section 7.7.1 above;
- b) the authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated site or activity such as the position of plant manager, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; a duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position; and
- c) the written authorization is submitted to the director or an appropriate EFO (see Section 2.8 above). The written authorization shall be a written document including the name of the newly authorized person and the contact information (title, mailing address, phone number, fax number and E-mail address) for the authorized person. The written

authorization shall be signed by the newly authorized person accepting responsibility and by the person described in Section 7.7.1 above delegating the authority.

7.7.4. Changes to authorization

If an authorization under Sections 7.7.1 above or 7.7.3 above is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility as the primary or secondary permittee, but the company name (permittee name) remains the same, a new NOI and **SWPPP** certification shall be submitted to an appropriate EFO (see Section 2.8 above) and signed by the new party who meets signatory authority satisfying the requirements of Sections 7.7.1 above or 7.7.3 above. The NOI shall include the new individual's information (title, mailing address, phone number, fax number and E-mail address), the existing tracking number and the project name.

7.7.5. Signatory requirements for primary permittees

Primary permittees required to sign an NOI and **SWPPP** because they meet the definition of an **operator** (see Subpart 2.2 above) shall sign the following certification statement on the NOI and on the **SWPPP**:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision. The submitted information is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment. As specified in Tennessee Code Annotated Section 39-16-702(a)(4), this declaration is made under penalty of perjury."

7.7.6. Signatory requirements for secondary permittees

Secondary permittees required to sign an NOI and **SWPPP** because they meet the definition of an **operator** but who are not primarily responsible for preparing an NOI and **SWPPP**, shall sign the following certification statement on the NOI and on the **SWPPP**:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have reviewed this document, any attachments, and the SWPPP referenced above. Based on my inquiry of the construction site owner/developer identified above and/or my inquiry of the person directly responsible for assembling this NOI and SWPPP, I believe the information submitted is accurate. I am aware that this NOI, if approved, makes the above-described construction activity subject to NPDES permit number TNR100000, and that certain of my activities on-site are thereby regulated. I am aware that there are significant penalties, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations, and for failure to comply with these permit requirements. As specified in Tennessee Code Annotated Section 39-16-702(a)(4), this declaration is made under penalty of perjury."

7.8. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

Knowingly making any false statement on any report or form required by this permit may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in [Section 309 of the Clean Water Act](#) and in [T.C.A. § 69-3-115](#) of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act.

7.9. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject to [Section 311 of the Clean Water Act](#) or [Section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act](#) of 1980 (CERCLA).

7.10. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privileges; nor does it authorize any injury to private property, any invasion of personal rights or any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations. The issuance of this permit does not authorize trespassing or discharges of stormwater or non-stormwater across private property.

7.11. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

7.12. Individual Permits

7.12.1. Required coverage

The director may require any person covered by this permit to apply for and obtain an individual NPDES permit to ensure adequate protection of designated uses of a receiving stream. Any interested person may petition the director in writing to take action under this paragraph, but must include in their petition the justification for such an action. Where the director requires a discharger authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for an individual NPDES permit, the director shall notify the discharger in writing that an individual permit application is required. This notification will include a brief statement of the reasons for this decision, an application form, a statement setting a deadline for the discharger to file the application and a statement that coverage under this general permit shall terminate upon the effective date of an individual NPDES permit; or denial of coverage under an individual permit. The notification may require stabilization of the site and suspend coverage under this general permit until the individual permit is issued. Individual permit applications shall be submitted to the appropriate Environmental Field Office of the division as indicated in Subpart 2.8 above. The director may grant additional time to submit the application upon request of the applicant. If a discharger fails to submit in a timely manner an individual NPDES permit application as required by the director under this paragraph, then the applicability of this permit to the discharger will be terminated at the end of the day specified by the director for application submittal.

If the decision to require an individual NPDES permit precedes the issuance of coverage under this general permit, earth disturbing activities cannot begin until the individual permit is issued.

7.12.2. Permittee requested coverage

Any discharger authorized by this permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this permit by applying for an individual permit. Any discharger that knowingly cannot abide by the terms and conditions of this permit must apply for an individual permit. In such cases, the permittee shall submit an individual application in accordance with the requirements of [40 CFR 122.26\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#), with reasons supporting the request, to the appropriate division's Environmental Field Office. The request may be granted by issuance of an individual permit, or alternative general permit, if the reasons cited by the permittee are adequate to support the request.

7.12.3. General permit termination

When an individual NPDES permit is issued to a discharger otherwise subject to this permit, or the discharger is authorized to discharge under an alternative NPDES general permit, the applicability of this permit to the discharger is terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or the date of authorization of coverage under the alternative general permit, whichever the case may be. When an individual NPDES permit is denied to an owner or **operator** otherwise subject to this permit, or the owner or **operator** is denied for coverage under an alternative NPDES general permit, the applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permittee is terminated on the date of such denial, unless otherwise specified by the director. Coverage under the [Tennessee Multi-Sector General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from an Industrial Activity](#) (TMSP) will not be considered as an alternative general permit under this section without being specified by the director.

7.13. Other, Non-Stormwater, Program Requirements

No condition of this permit shall release the permittee from any responsibility or requirements under other environmental statutes or regulations.

7.14. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related equipment) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit and with the requirements of stormwater pollution prevention plans.

Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory quality assurance and quality control procedures. Proper operation and maintenance requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems, installed by a permittee, when determined by the permittee or the division to be necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

7.15. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow authorized representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the director or an authorized representative of the commissioner of TDEC, or, in the case of a construction site which discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer, an authorized representative of the [MS4](#) receiving the discharge, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law:

- a) to enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- b) to have access to and copy at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit; and
- c) to inspect any facilities or equipment, including monitoring and control equipment.

7.16. Permit Actions

This permit may be issued, modified, revoked, reissued or terminated for cause in accordance with this permit and the applicable requirements of [T.C.A. § 69-3-108](#). The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

8. REQUIREMENTS FOR TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

8.1. Termination of Developer and Builder Coverage

8.1.1. Termination process for primary permittees

Primary permittees wishing to terminate coverage under this permit must submit a completed NOT form provided in Appendix B of this permit. Primary permittees who abandon a site and fail to submit the NOT will be in violation of this permit. If the NOT was not submitted five years following the “estimated end date” (as identified on the NOI), the division can terminate the CGP coverage. Signs notifying the public of the construction activity shall be in place until the NOT form has been submitted. Primary permittees may terminate permit coverage only if the conditions described below occur at the site:

- a) All earth-disturbing activities and, if applicable, construction support activities permitted under Section 1.2.2 at the site are complete and the following requirements are met:
 - i. For any areas that were disturbed during construction, are not covered by permanent structures and over which the permittee had control during the construction activities; the requirements for final vegetation or non-vegetative stabilization described in Subsection 3.5.3.2 are met.
 - ii. The permittee has removed and properly disposed of all construction materials; and, waste and waste handling devices. The permittee has removed all equipment and vehicles that were used during construction, unless they are intended for long-term use following termination of permit coverage.
 - iii. The permittee has removed all stormwater controls that were installed and maintained during construction, except those that are intended for long-term use following termination of permit coverage.
 - iv. The permittee has identified who is responsible for ongoing maintenance of any stormwater controls left on the site for long-term use following termination of permit coverage.
- b) The permittee has transferred control of all areas of the site for which he is responsible (including, but not limited to, infrastructure, common areas, stormwater drainage structures, sediment control basin) under this permit to another operator, and that operator has submitted an NOI and obtained coverage under this permit.
- c) The permittee obtains coverage under an individual or alternative general NPDES permit.

8.1.2. NOT review

The division may review NOTs for completeness and accuracy and, when necessary, investigate the proposed site for which the NOT was submitted. Coverage under the permit is terminated when the permit record is published on TDEC's dataviewer as "inactive."

The division retains the right to deny termination of coverage under this general permit upon receipt of the NOT. If the local Environmental Field Office has information indicating that the permit coverage is not eligible for termination, written notification will be provided that permit coverage has not been terminated. The notification will include a summary of existing deficiencies. When the site meets the termination criteria, the NOT should be re-submitted.

If any permittee files for bankruptcy or the site is foreclosed on by the lender, the permittee should notify the division of the situation so that the division may assess the site to determine if permit coverage should be obtained by any other person or whether other action is needed.

8.2. Termination of Builder and Contractor Coverage

8.2.1. Termination process for secondary permittees

Secondary permittees must request termination of coverage under this permit by submitting an NOT when they are no longer an operator at the construction site. Secondary permittees receive coverage under this permit, but are not normally mailed an NOC. Consequently, the division may, but is not required to, notify secondary permittees that their notice of termination has been received. If the division has reason to believe that the secondary permittee's NOT should not have been submitted, the division will deny the secondary permittee's NOT in writing, with specific reasons as to why the NOT should not have been submitted.

8.3. NOT certification

The NOT and the following certification must be signed in accordance with Subpart 7.7 above (Signatory Requirements) of this permit:

"I certify under penalty of law that either: (a) all stormwater discharges associated with construction activity from the portion of the identified facility where I was an operator have ceased or have been eliminated or (b) I am no longer an operator at the construction site. I understand that by submitting this notice of termination, I am no longer authorized to discharge stormwater associated with construction activity under this general permit, and that discharging pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activity to waters of the United States is unlawful under the Clean Water Act where the discharge is not authorized by a NPDES permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice of termination does not release an operator from liability for any violations of this permit or the Clean Water Act. As specified in Tennessee Code Annotated Section 39-16-702(a)(4), this declaration is made under penalty of perjury."

8.4. Where to Submit an NOT

The NOT shall be submitted to the Environmental Field Office (EFO) which issued the NOC to the primary permittee. A list of counties and the corresponding EFOs is provided in Subpart 2.8 above. The appropriate permit tracking number must be clearly printed on the form.

9. Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits (ARAPs)

Alterations to channels or waterbodies (streams, wetlands and/or other [waters of the state](#)) that are contained on, traverse through or are adjacent to the construction site, may require an [Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit](#) (ARAP) (<http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/permit-water-aquatic-resource-alteration-permit>). It is the responsibility of the developer to provide a determination of the water's status.⁷ This determination must be conducted in accordance with Tennessee's standard operating procedures for hydrologic determinations set forth at Rule [0400-40-03.05\(9\)](#). The permittee can make an assumption that streams/wetlands are present at the site in order to expedite the permit process. In some cases, issuance of coverage under the CGP may be delayed or withheld if the appropriate ARAP has not been obtained. At a minimum, any delay in obtaining an ARAP for water body alteration associated with the proposed project must be adequately addressed in the [SWPPP](#) prior to issuance of an NOC. Failure to obtain an ARAP prior to any actual alteration may result in enforcement action for the unauthorized alteration.

10. DEFINITIONS

"2-year and 5-year design storm depths and intensities" The estimated design rainfall amounts, for any return period interval (i.e., 2-yr, 5-yr, 25-yr, etc.,) in terms of either 24-hour depths or intensities for any duration, can be found by accessing the following NOAA National Weather Service Atlas 14 data for Tennessee: http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/orb/tn_pfds.html. Other data sources may be acceptable with prior written approval by TDEC Division of Water Resources.

"Best Management Practices" ("BMPs") means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to [waters of the state](#). BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures; and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage, leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

"Borrow Pit" is an excavation from which erodible material (typically soil) is removed to be fill for another site. There is no processing or separation of erodible material conducted at the site. Given the nature of activity and pollutants present at such excavation, a borrow pit is considered a construction activity for the purpose of this permit.

"Buffer Zone" or "Water Quality Riparian Buffer" is a strip of dense undisturbed perennial native vegetation, either original or re-established, that borders streams and rivers, ponds and lakes, wetlands and seeps. Buffer zones are established for the purposes of slowing water runoff, enhancing water infiltration and minimizing the risk of any potential sediments, nutrients or other pollutants from leaving the upland area and reaching surface waters. Buffer zones are most effective when stormwater runoff is flowing into and through the buffer zone as shallow sheet

⁷ The EPA considers inventorying a site's natural features is a technique called fingerprinting. More info can be found in EPA's document - EPA's Developing Your SWPPP – A Guide for Construction Sites (EPA-833-R-06-004 May 2007).

flow, rather than in concentrated form such as in channels, gullies, or [wet weather conveyances](#). Therefore, it is critical that the design of any development include management practices, to the maximum extent practical, that will result in stormwater runoff flowing into and through the buffer zone as shallow sheet flow. Buffer zones are established for the primary purpose of protecting water quality and maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem in receiving waters.

“Clearing” in the definition of discharges associated with construction activity, typically refers to removal of vegetation and disturbance of soil prior to grading or excavation in anticipation of construction activities. Clearing may also refer to wide area land disturbance in anticipation of non-construction activities; for instance, clearing forested land in order to convert forestland to pasture for wildlife management purposes. Clearing, grading and excavation do not refer to clearing of vegetation along existing or new roadways, highways, dams or power lines for sight distance or other maintenance and/or safety concerns, or cold planning, milling, and/or removal of concrete and/or bituminous asphalt roadway pavement surfaces. The clearing of land for agricultural purposes is exempt from federal stormwater NPDES permitting in accordance with Section 401(1)(1) of the 1987 Water Quality Act and state stormwater NPDES permitting in accordance with the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977 ([T.C.A. 69-3-101](#) et seq.).

“Commencement of construction” The initial disturbance of soils associated with clearing, grading, excavating or other construction activities.

“Common plan of development or sale” is broadly defined as any announcement or documentation (including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design) or physical demarcation (including boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings) indicating construction activities may occur on a specific plot. A common plan of development or sale identifies a situation in which multiple areas of disturbance are occurring on contiguous areas. This applies because the activities may take place at different times, on different schedules, by different [operators](#).

“Control measure” As used in this permit, refers to any Best Management Practice (BMP) or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to [waters of the state](#).

“CWA” means the Clean Water Act of 1977 or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ([33 U.S.C. 1251](#), et seq.)

“Department” means the Department of Environment and Conservation.

“Director” means the director, or authorized representative, of the Division of Water Resources of the State of Tennessee, Department of Environment and Conservation.

“Discharge of stormwater associated with construction activity” As used in this permit, refers to stormwater point source discharges from areas where soil disturbing activities (e.g., clearing, grading, excavation), or construction materials or equipment storage or maintenance (e.g., earth fill piles, fueling, waste material) are located.

“Disturbed area” means the total area presented as part of the development (and/or of a larger common plan of development) subject to being cleared, graded, or excavated during the life of the development. The area cannot be limited to only the portion of the total area that the site-wide owner/developer initially disturbs through the process of various land clearing activities or in the construction of roadways, sewers and water utilities, stormwater drainage structures, etc., to make the property marketable.

“Division” means the Division of Water Resources of the State of Tennessee, Department of Environment and Conservation.

“Exceptional Tennessee Waters” are surface waters designated by the division as having the characteristics set forth at Tennessee Rules, Chapter [0400-40-03-.06\(4\)](#). Characteristics include waters within parks or refuges; scenic rivers; waters with threatened or endangered species; waters that provide specialized recreational opportunities; waters within areas designated as lands unsuitable for mining; waters with naturally reproducing trout; waters with exceptional biological diversity and other waters with outstanding ecological or recreational value.

“Final Stabilization” means that all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and one of the three following criteria is met:

- a) A perennial, preferably native, vegetative cover with a uniform (i.e., evenly distributed, without large bare areas) density of at least 70 percent has been established on all unpaved areas and areas not covered by permanent structures, and all slopes and channels have been permanently stabilized against erosion.
- b) Equivalent permanent stabilization measures such as the use of riprap; permanent geotextiles; hardened surface materials including concrete, asphalt, gabion baskets or Reno mattresses have been employed.
- c) For construction projects on land used for agricultural or silvicultural purposes, final stabilization may be accomplished by returning the disturbed land to its preconstruction agricultural or silvicultural use.

“Improved sinkhole” is a natural surface depression that has been altered in order to direct fluids into the hole opening. Improved sinkhole is a type of injection well regulated under the [Underground Injection Control](#) (UIC) program. Underground injection constitutes an intentional disposal of waste waters in natural depressions, open fractures and crevices, such as those commonly associated with weathering of limestone.

“Inspector” An inspector is a person with following qualifications:

- a) a valid certification from the “[Fundamentals of Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Level I](#)” course,
- b) a licensed professional engineer or landscape architect,
- c) a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), or
- d) successfully completed the “Level II Design Principles for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control for Construction Sites” course.

An inspector performs and documents the required inspections, paying particular attention to time-sensitive permit requirements such as stabilization and maintenance activities. An inspector may also have the following responsibilities:

- a) Oversee the requirements of other construction-related permits, such as an [Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit](#) (ARAP) or Corps of Engineers permit for construction activities in or around [waters of the state](#).
- b) Update field SWPPPs.

- c) Conduct pre-construction inspection to verify that undisturbed areas have been properly marked and initial measures have been installed.
- d) Inform the permit holder of activities that may be necessary to gain or remain in compliance with the CGP and other environmental permits.

“Linear Project” is a land disturbing activity as conducted by an underground/overhead utility or highway department, including, but not limited to, any cable line or wire for the transmission of electrical energy; any conveyance pipeline for transportation of gaseous or liquid substance; any cable line or wire for communications; or any other energy resource transmission ROW or utility infrastructure, e.g., roads and highways. Activities include the construction and installation of these utilities within a corridor. Linear project activities also include the construction of access roads, staging areas and borrow/spoil sites associated with the linear project. Land disturbance specific to the development of residential and commercial subdivisions or high-rise structures is not considered a linear project.

“Measurable Degradation,” as used in the context of discharges or withdrawals – Changes in parameters of waters that are of sufficient magnitude to be detectable by the best available instrumentation or laboratory analyses.

(Note: Because analytical techniques change, the Department may consider either the most sensitive detection method needed to comply with state standards or any biological, chemical, physical, or analytical method, conducted in accordance with U.S. EPA approved methods as identified in 40 C.F.R. part 136. Consistent with T.C.A. § 69-3-108, for scenarios involving cumulative, non-measurable activities or parameters that are managed by a narrative criterion, the Department will use mathematical models and ecological indices to ensure no degradation will result from the authorization of such activities, consistent with the state’s mixing zone policy.)

“Monthly” refers to calendar months.

“Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” or **“MS4”** is defined in [40 CFR §122.26\(b\)\(8\)](#) to mean a conveyance or system of conveyances (e.g., roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that are:

- a) owned and operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to state law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under state law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section [208 of the CWA](#) that discharges to waters of the United States;
- b) designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
- c) not a combined sewer; and
- d) not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined in 40 CFR §122.2.

“NOI” means notice of intent to be covered by this permit (see Part 2 above)

“NOT” means notice of termination (see Part 8 above).

“Operator” for the purpose of this permit and in the context of stormwater associated with construction activity, means any person associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria:

- a) This person has operational or design control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications. This person is typically the owner or developer of the project or a portion of the project, and is considered the primary permittee.
- b) This person has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project which are necessary to ensure compliance with a [SWPPP](#) for the site or other permit conditions. This person is typically a contractor or a commercial builder who is hired by the primary permittee, and is considered a secondary permittee.

It is anticipated that at different phases of a construction project, different types of parties may satisfy the definition of “operator.”

“Point source” means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include introduction of pollutants from non-point source agricultural and silvicultural activities, including stormwater runoff from orchards, cultivated crops, pastures, range lands, forest lands or return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural stormwater runoff.

“Qualifying State, Tribal, or local erosion and sediment control program” is one that includes, as defined in [40 CFR 122.44\(s\)](#):

- a) Requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices.
- b) Requirements for construction site operators to control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality.
- c) Requirements for construction site operators to develop and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan. A stormwater pollution prevention plan includes site descriptions, descriptions of appropriate control measures, copies of approved State, Tribal or local requirements, maintenance procedures, inspection procedures and identification of non-stormwater discharges.
- d) Requirements to submit a site plan for review that incorporates consideration of potential water quality impacts.

“Quality Assurance Site Assessment” means a documented site inspection to verify the functionality and performance of the [SWPPP](#) and for determining if construction, operation and maintenance accurately comply with permit requirements as presented in the narrative, engineering specifications, maps, plans, drawings and details for EPSC measures and stormwater management.

“Registered Engineer” and **“Registered Landscape Architect”** An engineer or landscape architect certified and registered by the [State Board of Architectural and Engineer Examiners](#) pursuant to Section 62-202, Tennessee Code Annotated, to practice in Tennessee.

“Runoff coefficient” means the fraction of total rainfall that will appear at the conveyance as runoff. Runoff coefficient is also defined as the ratio of the amount of water that is not absorbed by the surface to the total amount of water that falls during a rainstorm.

“Sediment” means solid material, both inorganic (mineral) and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported; or has been moved from the site of origin by wind, water, gravity or ice as a product of erosion.

“Sediment basin” A temporary basin consisting of an embankment constructed across a wet weather conveyance, an excavation that creates a basin or by a combination of both. A sediment basin typically consists of a forebay cell, dam, impoundment, permanent pool, primary spillway, secondary or emergency spillway and surface dewatering device. The size and shape of the basin depends on the location, size of drainage area, incoming runoff volume and peak flow, soil type and particle size, land cover, and receiving stream classification (i.e., waters with unavailable parameters, Exceptional TN Waters, or waters with available parameters).

“Sedimentation” means the action or process of forming or depositing sediment.

“Significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the state” means any discharge containing pollutants that are reasonably expected to cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality criteria or receiving stream designated uses.

“Soil” means the unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of plants.

“Steep Slope” means a natural or created slope of 35% grade or greater. Designers of sites with steep slopes must pay attention to stormwater management in the [SWPPP](#) to engineer runoff around or over a steep slope so as not to erode the slope. In addition, site managers should focus on erosion prevention on the slopes and stabilize the slopes as soon as practicable to prevent slope failure or sediment discharges from the project.

“Stormwater” means rainfall runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

A **“Stream”** is a surface water that is not a wet weather conveyance. Therefore, as used in this permit, “stream” includes lakes, wetlands and other non-linear surface waters.

“Stormwater associated with industrial activity” is defined in [40 CFR 122.26\(b\)\(14\)](#) and incorporated here by reference. Most relevant to this permit is [40 CFR 122.26\(b\)\(14\)\(x\)](#), which relates to construction activity including clearing, grading, filling and excavation activities, including borrow pits containing erodible material. Disturbance of soil for the purpose of crop production is exempt from permit requirements, but stormwater discharges from agriculture-related activities that involve construction of structures (e.g., barn construction, road construction, pond construction) are considered associated with industrial activity. Maintenance to the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity; or to the original purpose of the facility (e.g., re-clearing, minor excavation performed around an existing structure necessary for maintenance or repair and repaving of an existing road) is not considered a construction activity for the purpose of this permit.

“Stormwater discharge-related activities” means activities that cause, contribute to or result in point source stormwater pollutant discharges. These activities may include excavation, site development, grading and other surface disturbance activities; and activities to control stormwater including the siting, construction and operation of best management practices (BMPs).

“Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan” (SWPPP) means a written plan required by this permit that includes a site map, a description of construction activities that could introduce pollutants to stormwater runoff and a description of measures or practices to control these pollutants. It must be prepared and approved before construction begins. In order to effectively reduce erosion and sedimentation impacts, Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be designed, installed and maintained during land disturbing activities. The SWPPP should be prepared in accordance with the [Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#). The handbook is designed to provide information to planners, developers, engineers and contractors on the proper selection, installation and maintenance of BMPs. The handbook is intended for use during the design and construction of projects that require erosion and sediment controls to protect [waters of the state](#). It also aids in the development of SWPPPs and other reports, plans or specifications required when participating in Tennessee's water quality regulations.

“Take” of an endangered species means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.

“Temporary stabilization” is achieved when vegetation or non-erodible surface has been established on the area of disturbance and construction activity has temporarily ceased. Under certain conditions, temporary stabilization is required when construction activities temporarily cease. However, if future construction activity is planned, permit coverage continues.

“Total maximum daily load” (TMDL) means the sum of the individual wasteload allocations for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background ([40 CFR 130.2\(I\)](#)). TMDL is a study that quantifies the amount of a pollutant in a stream, identifies the sources of the pollutant and recommends regulatory or other actions that may need to be taken in order for the stream to cease being polluted. TMDLs can also be described by the following equation:

$$\text{TMDL} = \text{sum of non point sources (LA)} + \text{sum of point sources (WLA)} + \text{margin of safety}$$

A list of completed TMDLs that have been approved by EPA can be found at our web site: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/wr-ws-tennessees-total-maximum-daily-load-tmdl-program>.

“Treatment chemicals” are polymers, flocculants or other chemicals used to reduce turbidity in stormwater discharges by chemically bonding to suspended silts and other soil materials and causing them to bind together and settle out. Common examples of anionic treatment chemicals are chitosan and anionic PAM.

“Turbidity” is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by individual particles (suspended solids) that are generally invisible to the naked eye, similar to smoke in air.

“Waste site” is an area where material from a construction site is disposed of. When the material is erodible, such as soil, the site must be treated as a construction site.

“Waters” or **“waters of the state”** means any and all water, public or private, on or beneath the surface of the ground, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon Tennessee or any portion thereof except, those bodies of water confined to and retained within the limits of private property in single ownership which do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters.

“Waters with unavailable parameters” means any segment of surface waters that has been identified by the division as failing to support one or more classified uses. For the purpose of this permit, pollutants of concern include, but are not limited to: siltation (silt/sediment) and habitat alterations due to in-channel erosion. Based on the most recent assessment information available to staff, the division will notify applicants and permittees if their discharge is into, or is affecting, waters with unavailable parameters. Resources to be used in making this determination include biennial compilations of impaired waters, databases of assessment information, updated [GIS coverages \(http://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwrwqa/\)](http://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwrwqa/), and the results of recent field surveys. [GIS coverages of the streams and lakes not meeting water quality standards, plus the biennial list of waters with unavailable parameters, can be found at http://tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-water-quality-reports-publications.](http://tn.gov/environment/article/wr-wq-water-quality-reports-publications)

“Wet weather conveyances” are man-made or natural watercourses, including natural watercourses that have been modified by channelization, that meet the following:

- a) The conveyance carries flow only in direct response to precipitation runoff in its immediate locality.
- b) The conveyance’s channels are at all times above the ground water table.
- c) The flow carried by the conveyance is not suitable for drinking water supplies.
- d) Hydrological and biological analyses indicate that, due to naturally occurring ephemeral or low flow under normal weather conditions, there is not sufficient water to support fish or multiple populations of obligate lotic aquatic organisms whose life cycle includes an aquatic phase of at least two months. (Tennessee Rules, Chapter [0400-40-3-.04\(3\)](#)).

11. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARAP	Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit
BMP	Best Management Practice
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CGP	Construction General Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
EFO	Environmental Field Office
EPA	(U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency
EPSC	Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NOC	Notice of Coverage
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOT	Notice of Termination
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
ONRW	Outstanding National Resource Waters
POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
QLP	Qualifying Local Program
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Tennessee General Permit No. TNR100000
Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities

TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
TDOT	Tennessee Department of Transportation
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TMSP	Tennessee Multi-Sector General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from an Industrial Activity
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
TWQCA	Tennessee Water Quality Control Act
UIC	Underground Injection Control
USGS	United States Geological Survey

(End of body of permit; appendices follow.)

Appendix B

Soil Map & Description