



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Governor Brad Little
Director John H. Tippetts

September 12, 2019

Jason Brinkman
Idaho Transportation Department – District 3
8150 W. Chinden Blvd.
Boise, Idaho 83714

RE: Reference No. NWW-2006-2300025 – Idaho Transportation Department,
Chinden Blvd. Road Expansion Project between Locust Grove and Eagle

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has considered water quality certification for construction related to the referenced project. DEQ is issuing the attached 401 Water Quality Certification subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

If you have any questions or further information to present please contact Julia Achabal at (208) 373-0321, or via email at Julia.Achabal@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Scheff".

for Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office

JRA/am

ec: Shane Skaar, COE, Boise
Loren Moore, DEQ State Office
TRIM 2019AKF83



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

September 12, 2019

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2006-2300025

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Idaho Transportation Department Chinden Blvd. Road Expansion

Nationwide Permit: No.14 - Linear Transportation

Project Location: Latitude 43.662912°N, Longitude -116.367831°W, between Locust Grove and Eagle Road, in the community of Meridian, Ada County, Idaho.

Receiving Water Body: Zinger Lateral, Zinger Sub-Lateral and unnamed ditches

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on July 24, 2019, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits, including without limitation, the approval from the owner of a private water conveyance system, if one is required, to use the system in connection with the permitted activities.

Project Description

This project will improve capacity along US 20/26 by widening the current 3 lane roadway into 5 lanes with a separated ten foot wide pathway. All waterways impacted by this project are for irrigation purposes. The project will take place outside the irrigation season and conveyances will be dry during construction. No dewatering activities are anticipated.

Mitigation requirements for wetland impacts will be met by contributing financially to the Barber Valley Mitigation Bank.

Antidegradation Review

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

- Tier I Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier II Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).
- Tier III Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ is employing a water body by water body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier I protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier II protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

Pollutants of Concern

The primary pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

Zinger Lateral, Zinger Sub-Lateral and unnamed ditches are located within the Lower Boise River Subbasin, Hydrologic Unit 17050114. These water courses are not included within the assessment unit database maintained by DEQ, nor are they included in the National Hydrography Dataset. Water bodies that are not specifically designated in Idaho's Water Quality Standards are considered man-made waters (IDAPA 58.01.02.101.02). DEQ protects man-made waterways for the use for which they were developed, namely agricultural water supply. As such, DEQ finds Tier I protection appropriate for these water courses unless presented with data warranting Tier II protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.b).

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)

A Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of existing and designated beneficial uses.

Construction will take place outside the irrigation season to ensure dry work conditions. Excavation in the area during the non-irrigation season has not intercepted ground water and no dewatering activities are expected. No surface water impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. However, during the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area.

As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both existing and designated uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier I provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

General Conditions

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.
2. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to

- another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.
4. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel.
 5. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints.
 6. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met.
 7. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit.

Fill Material

8. Fill material subject to suspension shall be free of easily suspended fine material. The fill material to be placed shall be clean material only.
9. Fill material shall not be placed in a location or in a manner that impairs surface or subsurface water flow into or out of any wetland area.
10. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
11. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
12. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled.

Erosion and Sediment Control

13. BMPs for sediment and erosion control suitable to prevent exceedances of state WQS shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf>. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
14. One of the first construction activities shall be placing permanent and/or temporary erosion and sediment control measures around the perimeter of the project or initial work areas to protect the project water resources.
15. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
16. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed at the earliest practicable time consistent with good construction practices and shall be maintained as necessary throughout project operation.

17. Top elevations of bank stabilization shall be such that adequate freeboard is provided to protect from erosion at 100-year design flood elevation.
18. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state.
19. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
20. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
21. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
22. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
23. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
24. To the extent reasonable and cost-effective, the activity submitted for certification shall be designed to minimize subsequent maintenance.
25. Sediment from disturbed areas or able to be tracked by vehicles onto pavement must not be allowed to leave the site in amounts that would reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state. Placement of clean aggregate at all construction entrances or exits and other BMPs such as truck or wheel washes, if needed, must be used when earth-moving equipment will be leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

26. Disturbance of existing wetlands and native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum.
27. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
28. Fencing and other barriers should be used to mark the construction areas.
29. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian and wetland vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work.

Dredge Material Management

30. Upland disposal of dredged material must be done in a manner that prevents the material from re-entering waters of the state.

Culverts

31. To prevent road surface and culvert bedding material from entering a stream, culvert crossings must include best management practices to retain road base and culvert bedding material. Examples of best management practices include, but are not limited to, parapets,

- wing walls, inlet and outlet rock armoring, compaction, suitable bedding material, anti-seep barriers such as bentonite clay, or other acceptable roadway retention systems.
32. The culvert shall not constrict the stream channel and shall not be angled such that the outflow is directed toward the stream bank. The culvert's flow line shall match the existing stream invert at its entrance and exit. Adequate grade control shall be installed to prevent channel down cutting or excessive deposition from occurring.
 33. The culvert outflow shall be armored with riprap to provide erosion control. This riprap will be clean, angular, dense rock that is free of fines and resistant to aquatic decomposition.
 34. Culverts shall be sized appropriately to maintain the natural drainage patterns.

Right to Appeal Final Certification

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the "Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality" (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to DEQ Boise Regional Office, Julia Achabal, (208) 373-0321 or Julia.Achabal@deq.idaho.gov.


for _____
Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office