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# Special Public Notice

Public Notice No. 18-01

Date: 18 January 2018

Memphis District

Application No. N/A

Expires: **02 February 2018**

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**SUBJECT:** Announcement of Tennessee Stream Quantification Tool (TN SQT) Availability, Applicability, and Comment Period.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this public notice is to announce to Department of the Army (DA) permit applicants, sponsors, consultants, industry, and the general public the availability of TN SQT. Comments on the stream assessment tool and associated supporting documents are being accepted by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) through February 2, 2018. All comments can be emailed to [Vena.L.Jones@tn.gov](mailto:Vena.L.Jones@tn.gov).

**TN SQT AVAILABILITY AND APPLICABILITY:** The Nashville and Memphis U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have worked as partners with TDEC, US Environmental Protection Agency, Stream Mechanics, LLC, the Tennessee Interagency Review Team, and others to develop a regionalized stream assessment. The IRT is comprised of the following agencies: Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Corps (IRT chair). The TN SQT consists of a series of user manuals, spreadsheets, and reference information that has been developed to assist the public and regulatory agencies in assessing streams to support permit decisions. The TN SQT will initially be used as a tool to assess the functional lift associated with stream restoration projects used as compensatory mitigation for aquatic resource losses associated with permit decisions. In addition to the TN SQT, other assessment methodologies may be considered on a case-by-case basis provided they utilize the best available science. Links to the TN SQT and supporting documents are provided below:

Data Collection and Analysis Manual (Draft)

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo\\_water\\_arap-tn-sqt-data-collection-and-analysis-manual-DRAFT.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo_water_arap-tn-sqt-data-collection-and-analysis-manual-DRAFT.pdf)

Rapid Data Collection Methods

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo\\_water\\_arap-tn-sqt-rapid-data-collection-methods-DRAFT.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo_water_arap-tn-sqt-rapid-data-collection-methods-DRAFT.pdf)

### Spreadsheet User Manual

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo\\_water\\_arap-tn-sqt-spreadsheet-user-manual-DRAFT.PDF](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo_water_arap-tn-sqt-spreadsheet-user-manual-DRAFT.PDF)

### List of Metrics

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo\\_water\\_arap-tn-sqt-list-of-metrics-113017.xlsx](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo_water_arap-tn-sqt-list-of-metrics-113017.xlsx)

### Tennessee Stream Quantification Tool v 0.99

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo\\_water\\_tn-sqt-tool-v0.99.xlsx](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/documents/ppo_water_tn-sqt-tool-v0.99.xlsx)

Our intent in participating in the development of the TN SQT is to provide an assessment methodology that will provide clear expectations to the public and a consistent and more efficient review that is rooted in sound science and is compliant with all applicable laws. Additionally, the resulting joint development effort with TDEC, Nashville and Memphis Districts will support the use of the TN SQT by both state and federal agencies across the state of Tennessee, further supporting a consistent regulatory review.

The TN SQT is not certified for use in Corps Civil Works ecosystem restoration and mitigation projects. In May 2005, the Corps established a Model Certification process known as the Planning Models Improvement Program (PMIP) to review, improve and validate analytical tools and models for Corps Civil Works business programs [Engineering Circular (EC) 1105-2-412]. The EC requires use of certified models for all planning activities and tasks the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX) to evaluate the technical soundness of models used in ecosystem restoration and mitigation projects. The TN SQT is not encumbered by the EC and will undergo separate evaluation by ECO-PCX should Corps Civil Works Planning have an interest in using this assessment methodology.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** All public notice comments can be emailed to [Vena.L.Jones@tn.gov](mailto:Vena.L.Jones@tn.gov). However, requests for additional information may be directed to Mr. Roger Allan at (901) 544-3682, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, 167 N. Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

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