

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Published: June 18, 2025 Expires: August 21, 2025

### **Rock Island District**

# **Nationwide Permits Reissuance Request for Comments**

Notification: After an in-depth review of the 2026 Proposed Nationwide Permits, the Rock Island District, on behalf of Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, and Louisville Districts, for the state of Illinois, has modified the Proposed Regional Conditions. Therefore, this notice has been extended for public review and comment. This is only for consideration of the regional conditions within the state of Illinois; this is not an extension of the federal public notice.

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the <u>Federal Register</u> its proposal to reissue 56 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) and issue one new NWP. One NWP is not proposed for reissuance.

NWPs are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

## National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs:

The Federal Register notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2025-0002 at **www.regulations.gov**, or by email to **2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil** or by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the June 18, 2025 Federal Register notice. Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by July 18, 2025.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than

minimal. An enclosure for this public notice lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers, on behalf of Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, and Louisville Districts, for the state of Illinois. The Rock Island District, on behalf of Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, and Louisville Districts, is seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWPs are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in the state of Illinois. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and proposed regional conditions should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Attention: Allison Froeschle, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204, or Allison.M.Froeschle@usace.army.mil. Comments relating to regional conditions are due by August 21, 2025. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWPs are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

## 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act:

States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs. States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs.

### **Draft Decision Documents:**

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWPs, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWPs with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWPs, are available for viewing at **www.regulations.gov**, docket number COE-2025-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWPs that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWPs and conditions. Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWPs through the Corps Home Page at <a href="https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/">https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/</a>, at <a href="https://www.regulations.gov">www.regulations.gov</a> in docket number COE-2025-0002, or at the following <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits</a>.

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- 32. Pre-Construction Notification

## **District Engineer's Decision**

## Further Information

## **Nationwide Permit Definitions**

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Enhancement

Establishment (creation)

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Historic property

Independent utility

Indirect effects

Loss of waters of the United States

Nature-based solutions

Navigable waters

Non-tidal wetland

Open water

Ordinary high water mark

Perennial stream

Practicable

Pre-construction notification

Preservation

Re-establishment

Rehabilitation

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Riffle and pool complex

Riparian areas

Shellfish seeding

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Stormwater management

Stormwater management facilities

Stream bed

Stream channelization

Structure

Tidal wetland Tribal lands Tribal rights Vegetated shallows Waterbody



#### STATE OF ILLINOIS

#### PROPOSED 2026 NATIONWIDE PERMIT REGIONAL CONDITIONS

- 1) For Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12, 57 and 58: Pre-Construction Notification is required in accordance with General Condition 32 for the following activities: (a) activities that involve mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way; (b) utility lines placed within, and along (i.e. parallel to) a jurisdictional stream bed.
- 2) For NWP 14: All proposed projects that result in the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of streambed located within Waters of the U.S., requires a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) in accordance with General Condition No. 32.
- 3) Bank stabilization activities involving a method that protrudes from the bank contours, such as jetties, stream barbs and/or weirs, will require a Pre-Construction Notification in accordance with General Condition 32.
- 4) For projects in Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties: Permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the Chicago District Regulatory Branch if the NWP activity is located within the groundwater recharge zones for Hine's emerald dragonfly (Somatochlora.hineana, "HED") critical habitat units or within 3.25 miles of a critical habitat unit for HED. Please visit the following website for the locations of the HED critical habitat units in Illinois. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7877#crithab">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7877#crithab</a>
- 5) A PCN is required for all activities located in, on, or under a Section 10 water.
- 6) NWP 27 activities resulting in the conversion of, or loss of waters of the United States, require a PCN.