

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit for
Surveying and Geotechnical Exploration



Effective Date: April 7, 2015

Expiration Date: April 6, 2020

Activities Covered by this Permit

This general permit authorizes scientific surveys and geotechnical exploration in waters of the state. Activities allowed include core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, soil surveys, soil sampling and historic resources surveys. This permit also allows the placement, operation, and removal of scientific measurement devices such as staff gages, water recording devices, water quality testing and improvement devices and similar structures.

Submittal of an application to the division and receipt of written authorization is not required for surveying and geotechnical exploration activities provided they are conducted in accordance with all limitations, terms and conditions contained in this permit.

Special Conditions

1. Drilling and excavation for test wells for oil and gas exploration are not covered
2. Temporary stream and wetland impacts, including access activities, shall conform to Tennessee Division of Forestry Best Management Practices and may not exceed 0.1 acres of wetland or 200 linear feet of stream in magnitude of disturbance.
3. Temporary stream and wetland impacts shall be restored to pre-impact conditions. Planting and re-grading must be done within 14 business days of project completion.

General Conditions

1. All activities must be accomplished in conformance with the approved plans, specifications, data and other information submitted in support of the ARAP application (form CN-1091) and the limitations, requirements and conditions set forth herein. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit is a violation of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977 (the Act), and is subject to penalty in accordance with T.C.A. §69-3-115.
2. Activities, either individually or cumulatively, that may result in greater than *de minimis* degradation to waters of the state are not covered. This general permit shall not be used incrementally to combine with other activities resulting in a net loss of water resource values.
3. Clearing, grubbing, and other disturbance to riparian vegetation shall be kept at the minimum necessary. Unnecessary riparian vegetation removal, including trees, is prohibited. Native riparian vegetation must be reestablished after work is completed. Non-native, non-invasive annuals may be used as cover crops until native species are established. Coverage under this permit does not serve to waive any local riparian buffer protection requirement, and permittees are responsible for obtaining any necessary local approval.
4. Widening of the stream channel as a result of this activity is prohibited.
5. This activity may not result in a disruption or barrier to the movement of fish or other aquatic life.
6. Activities that adversely affect wetland resource value, or impair surface water flow into or out of any wetland areas are prohibited.

7. Activities located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System or waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters are not covered.
8. Activities occurring in known or likely habitat of state or federally listed threatened, endangered, deemed in need of management, or species of special concern may not be authorized without prior coordination with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and TDEC Division of Natural Areas (DNA) to determine if any special conditions are required to avoid and/or minimize harm to the listed species or their habitat. Adverse effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species are not permitted without prior authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required by Section 7 or Section 10 under the Endangered Species Act.
9. Work shall not commence until the permittee has obtained all necessary authorizations pursuant to applicable provisions of §10 of The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; §404 of The Clean Water Act and §26a of The Tennessee Valley Authority Act, as well as any other federal, state or local laws.
10. Backfill activities must be accomplished in a manner that stabilizes the streambed and banks to prevent erosion. All contours must be returned to pre-project conditions to the extent practicable and the completed activities may not disrupt or impound stream flow.
11. The use of monofilament-type erosion control netting or blanket is prohibited.
12. This permit does not authorize impacts to cultural, historic or archaeological features or sites.
13. This permit does not authorize access to private property. Arrangements concerning the use of private property shall be made with the landowner.
14. Where practicable, all activities shall be accomplished in the dry. All surface water flowing towards this work shall be diverted using cofferdams and/or berms constructed of sandbags, clean rock (containing no fines or soils), steel sheeting, or other non-erodible, non-toxic material. All such diversion materials shall be removed upon completion of the work.
15. All activities must be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in TDEC Rule 0400-40-03. This includes, but is not limited to, the prevention of any discharge or use of materials that may be harmful to humans, terrestrial or aquatic life, or causes a condition in which visible solids, bottom deposits or turbidity impairs the designated uses of waters of the state.
16. Erosion prevention and sediment control measures must be in place and functional before any earth moving operations begin, and shall be designed according to the department's *Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook* (www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/sed_ero_controlhandbook/). Permanent vegetative stabilization using native species of all disturbed areas in or near the stream channel must be initiated within 15 days of project completion (see also *Landscaping with Natives* at tneppc.org). Non-native, non-invasive annuals may be used as cover crops until native species can be established.
17. The permittee is responsible for obtaining coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities* where clearing, grading or excavation results in an area of disturbance of one or more acres, or activities that result in the disturbance of less than one acre if it is part of a larger common plan of development or sale.

APPROVED: _____


Tisha Calabrese Benton
Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: 7/24/15