

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit for
Minor Alterations to Wetlands



Effective Date: April 7, 2020
Expiration Date: April 7, 2025

Activities Covered by this Permit

This general permit authorizes minor temporary or permanent alterations of wetlands, where avoidance is not possible. The individual or cumulative amount of alteration within a Common Plan of Development that may be authorized is based on degree of resource value impacted. Alterations of up to a total of 0.10 acres of wetlands representing moderate resource value may be authorized. Up to a total of 0.25 acres of wetlands that are degraded and of low resource value, may be authorized. Acreage limitations apply to total impacts from fill, access roads, hydrological modifications, or other project impacts, including permanent and temporary wetland impacts.

Certain activities due to size, location or potential water quality impacts are not covered under this general permit, as described in both the Special and General Conditions sections. Activities not qualifying for authorization under this general permit may be authorized by a standard (individual) permit provided that all requirements of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* (the *Act*) are met.

Special Conditions

1. Activities that impact high resource value wetlands, including but not limited to rare wetland types, Exceptional Tennessee Waters, and wetlands located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System or Outstanding Natural Resource Waters are not covered.
2. Activities where all practicable measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to the wetlands and other waters of the state have not been employed are not covered.
3. Excavation and fill activities associated with wetland alteration shall be kept to a minimum.
4. Wetlands outside of the permitted impact areas shall be clearly marked with signs, high visibility fencing, or similar structures so that all work performed by the contractor is solely within the permitted impact area.
5. Written notification of the commencement of authorized work shall be provided to the local TDEC Environmental Field Office prior to, or within 24 hours after initiation.
6. Authorized wetland alterations shall not cause measureable degradation to resource values and classified uses of hydrologically connected wetlands or other waters of the state, including disruption of sustaining surface or groundwater hydrology. Adjacent wetlands or streams determined likely to be measurably degraded by such hydrologic alteration, or by partial fill, must be included in the cumulative impact calculation, even if not filled or otherwise directly altered physically.
7. Temporary impacts to wetlands shall be mitigated by the removal and stockpiling of the first 12 inches of topsoil, prior to construction. Temporary wetland crossings or haul roads shall utilize timber matting. Gravel, riprap or other rock is not approved for construction of temporary crossings or haul

roads across wetlands. Upon completion of construction activities, all temporary wetland impact areas are to be restored to pre-construction contours, and the stockpiled topsoil spread to restore these areas to pre-construction elevation. Other side-cast material shall not be placed within the temporary impact locations. Permanent vegetative stabilization using native species of all disturbed areas in or near the wetland must be initiated within 14 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.

8. Erosion prevention and sediment control measures such as silt fences shall be removed following completion of construction.

General Conditions

1. The amount of fill, stream channel and bank modifications, or other impacts associated with the activity shall be limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish the project purpose. The permittee shall utilize the least impactful practicable method of construction.
2. 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 Act.
3. Activities, either individually or cumulatively, that may result in an appreciable permanent loss of resource values to streams or wetlands 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.
4. Clearing, grubbing, and other disturbance to wetland vegetation shall be kept at the minimum. Unnecessary native wetland vegetation removal, including tree removal, and soil disturbance is prohibited. Native wetland vegetation must be reestablished in all areas of disturbance outside of any permanent authorized structures after work is completed. Coverage under this permit does not serve to waive any local wetland buffer protection requirement, and permittees are responsible for obtaining any necessary local approval.
5. This activity may not result in a disruption or barrier to the movement of fish or other aquatic life and wetland dependent species upon project completion.
6. Blasting within 50 feet of any jurisdictional stream or wetland is prohibited.
7. 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 authorized by this permit. Permittee is responsible for obtaining prior authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required by Section 7 or Section 10 under the Endangered Species Act.
8. Work shall not commence until the permittee has obtained all necessary authorizations pursuant to applicable provisions of section 10 of The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, section 404 of the Clean Water Act, section 26a of The Tennessee Valley Authority Act, section 402 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, an NPDES permit for construction stormwater), or any other federal, state or local laws.
9. This permit does not authorize impacts to cultural, historic, or archaeological features or sites.

10. This permit does not authorize access to public or private property. Arrangements concerning the use of public or private property shall be made with the landowner. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any additional permitting or maintenance agreements with other government or public agencies or lands.
11. Where practicable, all activities shall be accomplished during drier times of year or when recent conditions have been dry at the impact location. All surface water flowing towards or from the construction activity shall be diverted using cofferdams and/or berms constructed of sandbags, steel sheeting, or other non-erodible, non-toxic material. All such diversion materials shall be located outside of the wetland and removed upon completion of the work. Activities may be conducted in the water if working in the dry will likely cause additional degradation. If work is conducted in the water it must be of a short duration and with minimal impact
12. All activities must be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in TDEC Rule Chapter 0400-40-03, or impairment of the uses of waters of the state as designated by Rule Chapter 0400-40-04.
13. 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 (<http://tnepsc.org/handbook.asp>). Permanent vegetative stabilization using native species of all disturbed areas in or near the stream channel must be initiated within 14 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.
14. The use of monofilament-type erosion control netting or blanket is prohibited in the stream channel, stream banks, or any disturbed riparian areas within 30 feet of top of bank.

Obtaining Permit Coverage

Proposed minor wetland alteration activities may obtain coverage by submitting a signed and completed application (form CN-1091), along with any other required information, to the division. Work shall not commence until a written Notice of Coverage (NOC) from the division is received. As noted above, not all activities may be eligible for coverage under this general permit and coverage may be denied when appropriate.

Each Notice of Coverage under this general permit is valid until the expiration date specified on the NOC. If the General Permit is modified, reissued, or revoked, and the permittee has commenced or is under contract to commence this activity before the expiration date, the permittee may have up to twelve (12) months from the date of the modification, reissuance, or revocation of the General Permit to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of the general permit.

An application fee as established in Rule 0400-40-11-.02 will be assessed to applicants intending to receive an NOC to conduct activities under this general permit. An annual maintenance fee will be assessed to those individuals holding general permit coverage unless a Notice of Termination (NOT) form is received prior to the one-year anniversary of the issuance date of the NOC. An NOT form can be downloaded from the division's ARAP webpage (<https://www.tn.gov/environment/permit-permits/water-permits1/aquatic-resource-alteration-permit--arap-.html>)

APPROVED: 
Jennifer Dodd (Apr 7, 2020)

Jennifer Dodd
Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: 04/07/2020