



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Northwest District
160 W. Government Street, Suite 308
Pensacola, Florida 32502-5740

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

August 15, 2022

FDOT District 3
c/o Erica Brookman
1074 US 90
Chipley, Florida 32428
Erica.Brookman@dot.state.fl.us

File No. 0239218-004-SFG/46, Okaloosa County

Dear Ms. Brookman:

On December 6, 2021, we received your notice of intent to use a General Permit (GP), pursuant to Rule 62- 331.248, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to replace an existing bridge and construct intersection improvements which will result in the filling of approximately 33,192.72 square feet or 0.762 acres of depressional marsh and approximately 15,507.36 square feet or 0.356 acres of swale, within the landward extent of Santa Rosa Sound, a Class III Florida Waterbody. The direct and secondary impacts will result in a functional loss of 0.442 which will be mitigated for off-site through the construction of a living shoreline at the NFWMD Live Oak Peninsula mitigation area via oyster shell breakwater construction and planting of appropriate saltmarsh species as provided in the Approved Regional Mitigation Plan. The activities authorized by this permit are located along the U.S. Highway 98 right-of-way, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548, in Section 24, Township 2 South, Range 24 West and Section 19, Township 2 South, Range 23 West in Okaloosa County, from approximately 30°24'12.9986" North Latitude, 86°36'17.3387" West Longitude to 30°23'45.6104" North Latitude, 86°35'34.1721" West Longitude.

Your intent to use a general permit has been reviewed by Department staff for State 404 Program authorization. **Your project qualifies for authorization.** However, this letter does not relieve you from the responsibility of obtaining other federal, state, or local authorizations that may be required for the activity.

State 404 Program Review – Approved

Based on the forms, drawings, and documents revised with your notice, it appears that the project meets the requirements for the General Permit under Rule 62-331.248, F.A.C. Any activities performed under a general permit are subject to general conditions required in Rule 62-331.201, F.A.C., the conditions of Rule 62-331.248, F.A.C. (attached), and any specific conditions, below. Any deviations from these conditions may subject the permittee to enforcement action and possible penalties. Please read each section carefully.

Please be advised that the construction phase of the GP must be completed by December 22, 2025. State 404 Program permits cannot be extended or renewed.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. This permit does not authorize the construction of any additional structures not illustrated on the permit drawings.
2. Prior to construction, the limits of the proposed impact areas shall be clearly flagged and staked by the agent and/or contractor. All construction personnel shall be shown the location(s) of all wetland areas outside of the construction to prevent encroachment from heavy equipment into these areas.
3. Best management practices for erosion control shall be implemented prior to construction commencement and shall be maintained at all times during construction to prevent siltation and turbid discharges in excess of State water quality standards pursuant to Rule 62-302, F.A.C. Methods shall include, but not limited to the use of staked haybales, staked filter cloth, sodding, seeding, staged construction and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site.
4. The permittee shall be responsible for ensuring that erosion control devices/procedures are inspected and maintained daily during all phases of construction authorized by this permit until all areas that were disturbed during construction are sufficiently stabilized to prevent erosion, siltation, and turbid discharges.
5. Prior to construction or impacts authorized by this permit, the permittee shall provide the Department with documentation on the location and plans of the proposed living shoreline at the NFWFMD Live Oak Peninsula mitigation area.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – LISTED SPECIES

6. The Permittee shall report any injured, sick, or dead federally or state listed animal(s) discovered onsite to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Alert number at 888-404-FWCC (3922).
7. This permit does not authorize the permittee to cause any adverse impact to or “take” of state listed species and other regulated species of fish and wildlife. Compliance with state laws regulating the take of fish and wildlife is the responsibility of the owner or permittee associated with this project. Please refer to Chapter 68A-27 of the Florida Administrative Code for definitions of “take” and a list of fish and wildlife species. If listed species are observed onsite, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff are available to provide decision support information or assist in obtaining the appropriate FWC permits. Most marine endangered and threatened species are statutorily protected and a “take” permit cannot be issued. Requests for further information or review can be sent to ConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.
8. If new information (e.g. listing of new species, new critical habitat, etc.) shows that the magnitude of impacts to federally listed species has the potential for adverse effects, the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will notify the Department. The Department will initiate coordination with the permittee and with the USFWS to determine what adverse impacts are likely and if additional minimization measures, reporting, or monitoring are required in order to be consistent with the Endangered Species Act, as deemed necessary by USFWS.

Authority for review – Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Title 62, F.A.C.

Additional Information

Please retain this general permit. The activities may be inspected by authorized state personnel in the future to ensure compliance with appropriate statutes and administrative codes. If the activities are not in compliance, you may be subject to penalties under Chapter 373, F.S., and Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the subsequent order may modify or take a different position than this action.

Petition for Administrative Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the

Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399- 3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant and persons entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. You cannot justifiably rely on the finality of this decision unless notice of this decision and the right of substantially affected persons to challenge this decision has been duly published or otherwise provided to all persons substantially affected by the decision. While you are not required to publish notice of this action, you may elect to do so pursuant Rule 62- 110.106(10)(a).

The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C. If you do not publish notice of this action, this waiver will not apply to persons who have not received written notice of this action.

Extension of Time

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399- 3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

FLAWAC Review

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Judicial Review

Once this decision becomes final, any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Florida Rules of

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Appellate Procedure 9.110 and 9.190 with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel (Station #35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000) and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice must be filed within 30 days from the date this action is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Whitney Bretana at the letterhead address, at (850)595-0658, or at Whitney.Bretana@FloridaDEP.gov.

EXECUTION AND CLERKING

Executed in Pensacola, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Kimberly R. Allen
Permitting Program Administrator

KRA:wb

Enclosures:

1. Rule 62-331.248, F.A.C., 4 pages
2. General Conditions for All General Permits, Rule 62-331.201, F.A.C., 8 pages
3. Certification of Compliance with State 404 Program General Permit, [form 62-331.200\(1\)](#)
4. Project Drawings, 233 pages
5. Wetland Impact Graphics, 11 pages
6. Approved Mitigation Plan, 12 pages

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned duly designated deputy clerk hereby certifies that this document and all attachments were sent on the filing date below to the following listed persons:

Florida DEP, Kim.Allen@FloridaDEP.gov, Russell.Sullivan@FloridaDEP.gov,
Blake.A.Chapman@FloridaDEP.gov, Whitney.Bretana@FloridaDEP.gov,
Savannah.Cowen@FloridaDEP.gov
Florida DOT, Erica.Brookman@dot.state.fl.us Stephen.furman@dot.state.fl.us
HDR, Josey.Walker@hdrinc.com Frank.Fu@hdrinc.com
Okaloosa County, mmartinez@co.okaloosa.fl.us jautrey@co.okaloosa.fl.us
sbitterman@co.okaloosa.fl.us propertyappraiser@okaloosapa.com

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to Section 120.52, F. S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.



Clerk

August 15, 2022
Date

Rule 62-331.248 , F.A.C.

(1) This general permit authorizes activities required for the construction of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) projects, with a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and/or FDOT approved Environmental Document (PD&E, Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement, or State Environmental Impact Report), including non-capacity and capacity improvements, where dredge and fill impacts do not result in the loss of greater than 5.0 acres of state-assumed waters (wetlands and surface waters) for any 1-mile segment of roadway length up to a maximum loss of 50 acres of state-assumed waters per project. This includes FTE projects with an approved state Environmental Document. Secondary impacts associated with projects authorized under this general permit shall be assessed, however, secondary impact acreages will not count toward the impact acreage limits (5.0 acres/1-mile and 50 acres total) within this general permit.

(2) This general permit does not authorize construction of a new alignment (non-existing roadway).

(3) This general permit is subject to the following conditions:

(a) Use of this general permit is limited to linear transportation projects that have been reviewed through the FDOT Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) and/or Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The environmental documents must have been evaluated, re-evaluated, or confirmed to be current within five years of submittal of an application.

(b) The term "capacity" is used to express the maximum number of vehicles or persons that can pass a point on a roadway during a given time period under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions. A capacity improvement project is normally implemented by the addition of through travel lanes. A capacity improvement project can also be a new interchange or new intersection that is contiguous and connects to an existing roadway but would not include a new interchange or intersection that results in a new roadway alignment. Non-capacity improvement projects may include safety improvements, maintenance, bike lane, or sidewalk additions.

(c) No work shall be performed until the permittee submits satisfactory plans for the proposed activity and receives written authorization from the Agency.

(d) If the project includes modification of a federal project, no work shall be performed until the permittee receives authorization under 33 U.S.C §408 from the Corps of Engineers.

(e) Conformance with the descriptions, quantities, and criteria in this general permit does not guarantee authorization under this general permit. The Agency reserves the right to require that any request for authorization under this general permit be evaluated as an individual permit.

(f) A copy of all "Commitments" related to the avoidance and minimization of impacts to state-assumed waters identified in any completed Environmental Documents and the Quality Enhancement Strategies (QES) (effective date), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12075>), shall be submitted with the permit application prior to verification of this general permit.

(g) Prior to the verification of qualification for this general permit; the applicant shall provide the Agency with copies of the concurrence documents from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in Tallahassee and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) where applicable.

(h) Cultural Resources and/or Historic Properties. In addition to the conditions for general permits in Rule 62-331.200, F.A.C., the following shall apply:

1. No structure or work shall adversely affect, impact, or disturb properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), or those eligible for listing in the NRHP where the

adverse effect, impact, or disturbance has not been resolved through consultation with the SHPO.

2. The applicant shall determine and document, in consultation with SHPO, the scope of identification efforts for cultural resources within the undertaking's area of potential effect and establish a determination of effects based upon these efforts. Documentation of this scope of identification efforts and determination shall be provided in summary form to the Agency along with the concurrence documents from SHPO.

3. If an archaeological monitor is required. A professional archeologist who meets the "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines" shall be onsite during the initial ground-disturbing activities. The professional archeologist shall be responsible for monitoring the spoil and ground disturbance for archaeological deposits. Should potential significant archaeological deposits (which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement), recovery be encountered, all work and ground disturbing activities must cease within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery to allow for proper assessment, recording, and recovery of the cultural deposits in a professional manner. The archeologist on site shall notify the Permittee, SHPO, and the Agency the same business day to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions, including salvage operations, coordination with the SHPO/THPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties, as appropriate and in compliance with applicable historic preservation laws. Upon completion of the monitoring activities, an archaeological letter must be submitted to the Director of Florida's Division of Historical Resources (who also serves as the SHPO), along with an updated Florida Master Site File form and, as appropriate, a monitoring report.

(i) Compensatory Mitigation.

1. Mitigation may be accomplished by one or more of the following mechanisms and preference hierarchy.

a. Securing appropriate number and resource type of credits from approved mitigation bank within the project's service area;

b. Payment of mitigation fees to an approved in-lieu program within the project's service area;

c. Through a "permittee-responsible" mitigation, including those mitigation projects that are part of the FDOT Mitigation Program in Section 373.4137, F.S.; on-site and in-kind mitigation; or off-site or out-of-kind compensatory mitigation.

d. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate to the Agency that the mitigation proposal is the environmentally preferable option to replace the ecological functions and services that would be lost through the implementation of any work proposed. All mitigation proposals must be approved prior to verification of this general permit.

2. Prior to proceeding with the activity authorized in this general permit, a final mitigation plan must be approved by the Agency. If the approved mitigation plan is the purchase of mitigation bank or in lieu fee credits, the credits must be purchased or in-lieu fees paid prior to proceeding.

3. When the purchase of mitigation credits is applicable, the Permittee shall provide verification to the Agency indicating the number and type of credits purchased and the specific federal mitigation bank from which credits have been purchased. When payment of in-lieu fees is applicable, evidence of fee payment shall be provided to the Agency. The above-described verification or notification shall be provided to the Agency before commencement of the activities authorized by this general permit.

4. If the general permit verification includes permittee-responsible mitigation, the mitigation

plan shall address the components of a complete mitigation plan as described in Rule 62-331.130, F.A.C.

(j) Prior to the verification of projects pursuant to this general permit, the applicant (FDOT, FTE, FHWA, or others) shall provide the Agency with a copy of either a concurrence document (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect determinations) or a finalized biological opinion (for May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect determinations) written by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These documents demonstrate that project consultation for federally listed species has been completed.

(k) No authorizations under this general permit shall be made for projects that jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

(l) No authorizations under this general permit shall be made for projects resulting in any direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on very rare species, specifically the endangered Perdido Key beach mouse, Choctawhatchee beach mouse, and the St. Andrew beach mouse.

(m) All terms and conditions provided by the USFWS and/or the FWC shall be included as a special condition of any projects verified under this general permit.

(n) This general permit does not authorize stream channelization or the bank-to-bank filling and relocating and/or culverting of more than 300 linear feet of perennial or intermittent natural stream systems. Ditches, canals, swales or other non-natural channelized systems are not included in this restriction. The authorized activities shall not increase flooding, or negatively impact the pre-project hydrologic flow characteristics or water quality of any affected stream. This permit does not authorize severance of connections to upstream or downstream waters.

(o) To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters shall be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and stormwater management activities, except as provided below. The activity shall be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity shall not restrict nor impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open water if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

(p) This general permit does not authorize fill activities which would sever hydrologic connection between wetlands or other surface waters.

(q) Best management practices for erosion and sediment control shall be used to prevent water quality violations during and after construction. These shall include a construction-phase stormwater management and erosion control plan that is designed and implemented to include site-specific measures adapted from practices and procedures described in "The State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual, FDOT and FDEP" (June 2007), incorporated by reference in subparagraph 62-330.050(9)(b)5., F.A.C. (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-02530>).

(r) Authorization under this general permit is void at any time if the information provided by the applicant in support of the permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate.

(s) The permittee shall comply with USFWS "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" (Aug. 12, 2013), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12076>).

(t) For projects accessible to manatees, the Permittee shall comply with the "Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work" (2011), incorporated by reference in paragraph 62-331.201(4)(n),

F.A.C.

(u) As-Built Certification. Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall submit to the Agency as-built drawings of the authorized work and a completed Form 62-331.248(1) “As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer”, incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12077>). The as-built drawings shall be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer and include the following:

1. A plan view drawing of the location of the authorized work footprint, as shown on the permit drawings, with transparent overlay of the work as constructed in the same scale as the permit drawings on 8½-inch by 11-inch sheets. The plan view drawing should show all “earth disturbance,” including wetland impacts and water management structures.

2. A list of any deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. In the event that the completed work deviates, in any manner, from the authorized work, describe on the attached “As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer” form the deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. Clearly indicate on the as-built drawings any deviations that have been listed. Please note that the depiction and/or description of any deviations on the drawings and/or “As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer” form does not constitute approval of any deviations by the Agency.

3. Include the permit number on all sheets submitted.

Editor notes: The effective date of the rule will be the effective date of assumption, which is the date identified by EPA as published in the Federal Register §373.4146, F.S.

Rulemaking Authority 373.026(7), 373.043, 373.118(1), 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.4146(2), 403.805(1) FS. Law Implemented 373.118, 373.129, 373.136, 373.413, 373.4131, 373.414, 373.4145, 373.4146, 373.416, 373.422, 373.423, 373.429 FS. History—New 12-22-20.

Conditions for General Permits – Rule 62-331.201, F.A.C.

(1) General permits shall be subject to the conditions in subsections (2) and (3), below, and the general conditions for all general permits in Rule 62-330.405, F.A.C., except subsections 62-330.405(7) and (10), F.A.C. The Agency may revise the general conditions in Rule 62-330.405, F.A.C. to include references to applicable rules under this Chapter, as necessary.

(2) When a project requires submittal of a notice of intent to use a general permit, the Agency shall impose specific conditions as necessary to assure that the activities will be conducted in compliance with this Chapter, and in a manner which minimizes adverse impacts upon the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of wetlands or other surface waters, such as mitigation, monitoring, reporting, or recordkeeping requirements and protection measures for listed species or historical resources.

(3) In addition, general permits under this Chapter are subject to the following conditions:

(a) Aquatic Life Movements. No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing shall be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

(b) Spawning Areas. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

(c) Migratory Bird Breeding Areas. Activities in state-assumed waters that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

(d) Shellfish Beds. No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by general permits in Rule 62-331.211 or 62-331.244, F.A.C., or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by the general permit in Rule 62-331.225, F.A.C.

(e) Suitable Material. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or fill must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts as listed in section 307 of the CWA, which is incorporated by reference in subparagraph 62-331.053(3)(a)3., F.A.C., or state law.

(f) Water Supply Intakes. No activity may occur within 1000 feet of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

(g) Fills Within 100-year Floodplains. The activity shall comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

(h) Single and Complete Project. The activity must be a single and complete project. The same general permit cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project unless otherwise stated within the general permit. (See 404 Handbook, section 3.2.1).

(i) Wild and Scenic Rivers. No general permit activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a study river for possible inclusion in the System while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(j) Tribal Rights. No general permit activity may cause more than minimal adverse effects on tribal rights (including treaty rights, settlement rights, or rights reserved under state or federal law), protected tribal resources (including cultural or burial resources off reservation), tribal waters, or to tribal lands.

(k) Listed species. No activity is authorized under any general permit which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species or a species proposed for such designation, or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under any general permit which may affect a listed species or critical habitat, unless the Agency has consulted with, or been provided technical assistance by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service under their respective authorities and appropriate measures to address the effects of the proposed activity have been implemented or are required as a specific condition to the general permit.

(l) Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles. The permittee is responsible for ensuring their action complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703 – 712 (2018), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12068>), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 668 – 668(d) (2018), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12069>). The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine applicable measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds or eagles, including whether incidental take permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

(m) Historic Properties. In cases where the Agency determines, based on information from SHPO, that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized until a determination of “no effect” or “no adverse effect” is provided by SHPO.

(n) Manatees. In waters that are accessible to manatees, the permittee shall follow the “Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (2011)”, incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12070>).

(o) Sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, Gulf sturgeon, or shortnose sturgeon. In waters that are accessible to these species, the permittee shall follow the “Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions” (March 23, 2006), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12071>).

(p) Use of Multiple General Permits. The use of more than one general permit under this Chapter for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when specified within a specific general permit, or when the acreage loss of state-assumed waters authorized by the general permits does not exceed the acreage limit of the general permit with the highest specified acreage limit.

(q) Transfer of General Permit Verifications. If the permittee sells the property associated with the general permit verification, the permittee shall transfer the general permit verification to the new owner by submitting a completed Form 62-331.100(1) – “Transfer of State 404 Program General Permit Verification” (effective date), incorporated by reference in subsection 62-331.100(2), F.A.C., within 30 days of the sale, to the Agency that processed the original notice.

(r) Compliance Certification. Each permittee who receives a general permit verification letter under this Chapter must submit a completed Form 62-331.200(1) – “Certification of Compliance with a State 404 Program General Permit” (effective date), incorporated by reference in subsection 62-331.200(4), F.A.C., within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity, or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever is later.

(s) Activities Affecting Structures or Work Built by the United States. If an activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a Corps federally authorized Civil Works project, the prospective permittee is responsible for obtaining such permission separately from the Corps prior to commencing activities authorized by the general permit.

(t) If during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological or cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey or to which such impacts were not anticipated, including but not limited to pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement; the Permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Agency within the same business day. The Agency shall then notify the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO(s)) or tribe when the interested tribe does not have a THPO, to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.

(u) Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries or effects to historic properties as referenced in accordance with

condition (t), above, and if deemed necessary by the SHPO, or THPO(s), Tribes, or Agency. Based on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Agency may modify, suspend, or revoke the permit in accordance with Rule 62-331.080, F.A.C. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the SHPO and THPO(s), or tribe when the interested tribe does not have a THPO, concerning potential effects to cultural resources or historic properties for finds under their jurisdiction, and from the Agency.

(v) In the event that unmarked human remains are identified, they shall be treated in accordance with Section 872.05, F.S. All work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the unmarked human remains shall immediately cease and the Permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Agency, and State Archaeologist within the same business day. The Agency shall then notify the appropriate SHPO and THPO(s) and appropriate tribes and other appropriate consulting parties. Based on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Agency may modify, suspend, or revoke the permit in accordance with Rule 62-331.080, F.A.C. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the medical examiner, State Archaeologist, and from the Agency. Additionally, if the unmarked remains were identified on federal lands, or lands where the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470aa – 470mm (2018), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12072>), or the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation 25 U.S.C. §§ 3001-3013 (2018), incorporated by reference herein (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-12073>), applies, such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the SHPO, the appropriate THPO(s), and the federal land manager.

(w) Noncompliance. The permittee shall timely notify the Agency of any expected or known actual noncompliance.

(x) Inspection and entry. The permittee shall allow the Agency, upon presentation of proper identification, at reasonable times to:

1. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated activity is located or where records must be kept under the conditions of the permit,
2. Have access to and copy any records that must be kept under the conditions of the permit,
3. Inspect operations regulated or required under the permit, and
4. Sample or monitor, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

(y) The permittee shall comply with all conditions of the permit, even if that requires halting or reducing the permitted activity to maintain compliance. Any permit violation constitutes a violation of Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., and this Chapter, as well as a violation of the CWA.

(z) The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to prevent any unauthorized dredging or filling in violation of this permit.

(aa) Upon Agency request, the permittee shall provide information necessary to determine compliance status, or whether cause exists for permit modification, revocation, or termination.

Rulemaking Authority 373.026(7), 373.043, 373.118(1), 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.4146(2), 403.805(1) FS. Law Implemented 373.118, 373.129, 373.136, 373.413, 373.4131, 373.414, 373.4145, 373.4146, 373.416, 373.422, 373.423, 373.429 FS. History – New 12.22.2020.

62-330.405 General Conditions for All General Permits.

The following general permit conditions are binding upon the permittee and are enforceable under chapter 373, F.S. These conditions do not apply to the general permit for stormwater management systems under section 403.814(12), F.S

(1) The general permit is valid only for the specific activity indicated. Any deviation from the specified activity and the conditions for undertaking that activity shall constitute a violation of the permit and may subject the permittee to enforcement action and revocation of the permit under chapter 373, F.S

(2) The general permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal or abandonment authorized by this permit; and it does not authorize any violation of any other applicable federal, state, local, or special district laws (including, but not limited to, those governing the “take” of listed species).

(3) The general permit does not convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the permittee, or convey any rights or privileges other than those specified in the general permit.

(4) The general permit does not relieve the permittee from liability and penalties when the permitted activity causes harm or injury to: human health or welfare; animal, plant or aquatic life; or property. It does not allow the permittee to cause pollution that violates state water quality standards.

(5) Section 253.77, F.S., provides that a person may not commence any excavation, construction, or other activity involving the use of state-owned or other lands of the state, the title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund without obtaining the required consent, lease, easement, or other form of authorization authorizing the proposed use. Therefore, the permittee is responsible for obtaining any necessary authorizations from the Board of Trustees prior to commencing activity on state-owned lands.

(6) The authorization to conduct activities under a general permit may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with chapter 120, F.S., and section 373.429, F.S.

(7) Not applicable.

(8) Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, Agency staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the permitted system to ensure conformity with the

plans and specifications approved by the general permit.

(9) The permittee shall maintain any permitted project or activity in accordance with the plans submitted to the Agency and authorized in the general permit.

(10) Not applicable.

(11) Activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards. Performance-based erosion and sediment control best management practices shall be implemented and maintained immediately prior to, during, and after construction as needed to stabilize all disturbed areas, including other measures specified in the permit to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources and adjacent lands. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the *State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Transportation, June 2007)*, available at <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04227>, and the *Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Nonpoint Source Management Section, Tallahassee, Florida, July 2008)*, available at http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/Stormwater_Training_Docs/erosion-inspectors-manual.pdf.

(12) Unless otherwise specified in the general permit, temporary vehicular access within wetlands during construction shall be performed using vehicles generating minimum ground pressure to minimize rutting and other environmental impacts. Within forested wetlands, the permittee shall choose alignments that minimize the destruction of mature wetland trees to the greatest extent practicable. When needed to prevent rutting or soil compaction, access vehicles shall be operated on wooden, composite, metal, or other non-earthen construction mats. In all cases, access in wetlands shall comply with the following:

(a) Access within forested wetlands shall not include the cutting or clearing of any native wetland tree having a diameter four inches or greater at breast height;

(b) The maximum width of the construction access area shall be limited to 15 feet;

(c) All mats shall be removed as soon as practicable after equipment has completed passage through, or work has been completed, at any location along the alignment of the project, but in no case longer than seven days after equipment has completed work or passage through that location; and

(d) Areas disturbed for access shall be restored to natural grades immediately after the maintenance or repair is completed.

(13) Barges or other work vessels used to conduct in-water activities shall be operated in a manner that prevents unauthorized dredging, water quality violations, and damage to submerged aquatic communities.

(14) The construction, alteration, or use of the authorized project shall not adversely impede navigation or create a navigational hazard in the water body.

(15) Except where specifically authorized in the general permit, activities must not:

(a) Impound or obstruct existing water flow, cause adverse impacts to existing surface water storage and conveyance capabilities, or otherwise cause adverse water quantity or flooding impacts to receiving water and adjacent lands; or

(b) Cause an adverse impact to the maintenance of surface or ground water levels or surface water flows established pursuant to section 373.042, F.S., or a Works of the District established pursuant to section 373.086, F.S.

(16) If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, stone tools, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The permittee or other designee shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section (DHR), at (850)245-6333, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Project activities shall not resume without verbal or written authorization from the Division of Historical Resources. If unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with section 872.05, F.S.

(17) The activity must be capable, based on generally accepted engineering and scientific principles, of being performed and of functioning as proposed, and must comply with any applicable District special basin and geographic area criteria.

(18) The permittee shall comply with the following when performing work within waters accessible to federally- or state-listed aquatic species, such as manatees, marine turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon:

(a) All vessels associated with the project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the work area and where the draft of the vessels provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.

(b) All deployed siltation or turbidity barriers shall be properly secured, monitored, and maintained to prevent entanglement or entrapment of listed species.

(c) All in-water activities, including vessel operation, must be shut down if a listed species comes within 50 feet of the work area. Activities shall not resume until the animal(s) has moved beyond a 50-foot radius of the in-water work, or until 30 minutes elapses since the last sighting within 50 feet. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving. All onsite project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of listed species.

(d) Any listed species that is killed or injured by work associated with activities performed shall

be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1(888)404-3922 and ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com.

(e) Whenever there is a spill or frac-out of drilling fluid into waters accessible to the above species during a directional drilling operation, the FWC shall be notified at ImperiledSpecies@myfwc.com with details of the event within 24 hours following detection of the spill or frac-out.

(19) The permittee shall hold and save the Agency harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any activity authorized by the general permit.

(20) The permittee shall immediately notify the Agency in writing of any submitted information that is discovered to be inaccurate.

Rulemaking Authority 373.026(7), 373.043, 373.118(1), 373.406(5), 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.418, 403.805(1) FS. Law Implemented 373.044, 373.118(1), 373.129, 373.136, 373.406(5), 373.413, 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.416, 373.422, 373.423, 373.429, 403.814(1) FS. History—New 10-3-95, Amended 10-1-07, Formerly 62-341.215, Amended 10-1-13, 6-1-18.

Certification of Compliance with a State 404 Program General Permit

Instructions: To be completed, executed, and submitted to the Agency within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity.

Permit No: Permittee's Name:

Permittee's Address:

Telephone Number:

Location of the Work:

Date Work Started: _____ Date Work Completed: _____

PROPERTY IS INACCESSIBLE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION: YES NO
TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION, PLEASE CONTACT AT

Description of the Work (e.g., bank stabilization, residential or commercial filling, docks, dredging, etc.):

Acreage or Square Feet of Impacts to state-assumed waters:

Describe Mitigation completed (if applicable):

Describe any Deviations from Permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations):

I certify that all work, and mitigation (if applicable) was done in accordance with the limitations and conditions as described in the permit. Any deviations as described above are depicted on the attached drawing(s).

Signature of Permittee

Date:

Name and Title

Enclosures:

- ☐ Attached drawing(s) depicting deviations from the permit (if any)
☐ Other