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

Effective Date: July 1, 2010
Expiration Date: June 30, 2015

Activities Covered by this Permit:
This general permit authorizes minor alterations of up to 0.1 acre of wetlands that are degraded, of low functional capacity or in situations where the proposed area lost would result in no significant change in the function and water resource values of the larger wetland system. Cumulative wetland losses for any whole project shall not exceed a 0.25 acreage limit.

Limitations of this Permit:
Certain activities due to size, location or potential water quality impacts are not covered under this general permit. Those activities are described in this section. Activities not qualifying for authorization under this general permit may be authorized by an individual permit, provided that all requirements of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* are met.

1) Activities that impact wetlands that represent a high resource value as compared to others within the ecoregion 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) Activities located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, a State Scenic River, waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters are not covered.
4) Activities located in any waterway which is identified by the department as having contaminated sediments, and the activity will likely mobilize the contaminated sediments are not covered.
5) Activities that may result in an adverse effect to a threatened or endangered species, or to designated critical habitat; or is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species proposed for listing as endangered or threatened without prior authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required by section 7 or section 10 of the Endangered Species Act where applicable are not covered. Adverse effects comprise, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (a) death or injury to one or more individuals that results from activities associated with an action, (b) a change in habitat quantity or quality that results from activities associated with an action that renders the habitat unsuitable for the species, or (c) activities associated with an action that disrupts normal behavior or functions of individuals.
6) Activities that may result in the take, harassment, or destruction of plant or wildlife listed as threatened or endangered or a species deemed to be in need of management, as defined and identified under Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 70-08-103, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Proclamations 00-14 and 00-15, and Division of Natural Heritage (DNH) Rule 0400-6-2 or which will destroy the habitat of such species without prior authorization from TWRA and/or DNH where applicable are not covered.
7) Activities, either individually or cumulatively, that may result in degradation to waters of the state are not covered. For example, this general permit shall not be used in incremental means to combine with other projects to alter larger areas of wetland.
8) Activities that otherwise require an individual permit are not covered.

Obtaining Permit Coverage:
Coverage under this general permit may be obtained by submitting a signed and completed application (form CN-1091) to the division. Work shall not commence until written authorization from the division is received. As noted above, not all activities can be covered under this permit, and an application for coverage may be denied when appropriate.

The division will establish an expiration date for coverage under this general permit that is specific to the authorization and separate from the general permit's expiration date.

Terms and Conditions of this Permit:
All activities covered under this general permit shall comply with all terms and conditions contained hereinafter.

1) All work shall be accomplished in conformance with the accepted plans, specifications, data and other information submitted in support of the above mentioned application and the limitations, requirements, and conditions set forth herein.
2) All work shall be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in Rule 1200-4-3-.03 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This includes,

but is not limited to, the prevention of any discharge that causes a condition in which visible solids, bottom deposits, or turbidity impairs the usefulness of waters of the state for any of the uses designated by Rule 1200-4-4. These uses include fish and aquatic life (including trout streams and naturally reproducing trout streams), livestock watering and wildlife, recreation, irrigation, industrial water supply, domestic water supply, and navigation.

3) Applicant is responsible for obtaining the necessary authorization 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.
4) Applicant is responsible for obtaining coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities for construction sites involving clearing, grading or excavation that result in an area of disturbance of one or more acres, and activities that result in the disturbance of less than one acre if it is part of a larger common plan of development or sale.
5) The wetlands alterations shall not adversely affect the functions and classified use support of adjacent wetlands or to other waters of the state.
6) Materials used in wetlands alteration projects shall be free of contaminants, including toxic pollutants, hazardous substances, waste metal, construction debris and other wastes as defined by T.C.A. 69-3-103(18).
7) The excavation and fill activities associated with the wetlands alteration shall be kept to a minimum.
8) Excavated materials, removed vegetation, construction debris, and other wastes shall be removed to an upland location and properly stabilized or disposed of in such a manner as to prevent reentry into the waterway.
9) Sediment shall be prevented from entering waters of the state. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be designed according to the size and slope of disturbed or drainage areas to detain runoff and trap sediment and shall be properly selected, installed, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and good engineering practices. Information on erosion and sediment control measures can be found in the department's Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/sed_ero_controlhandbook/).
10) Erosion and sediment control measures shall be in place and functional before earth moving operations begin, and shall be constructed and maintained throughout the construction period. Temporary measures may be removed at the beginning of the work day, but shall be replaced at the end of the work day.
11) Litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals exposed to storm water shall be picked up prior to anticipated storm events (e.g. forecasted by local weather reports), or otherwise prevented from becoming a pollutant source for storm water discharges (e.g., screening outfalls, daily pick-up, etc.). After use, silt fences should be removed or otherwise prevented from becoming a pollutant source for storm water discharges.
12) Clearing, grubbing and other disturbance to the riparian vegetation shall be kept at the minimum necessary for slope construction, equipment operations and project completion. Unnecessary riparian vegetation removal, including trees, is prohibited.
13) Appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure that petroleum products or other chemical pollutants are prevented from entering waters of the state. All spills shall be reported to the appropriate emergency management agency and to the division. In the event of a spill, measures shall be taken immediately to prevent pollution of waters of the state, including groundwater.
14) This general permit does not authorize impacts to cultural, historical or archaeological features or sites.
15) Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit is a violation of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* and is subject to penalty in accordance with T.C.A. §69-3-115.

APPROVED: Paul E. Davis

Paul E. Davis, Director, Water Pollution Control

DATE: 6/28/10