



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Draft §401 Water Quality Certification

July 25, 2013

**404 Permit Application Number:** NWW-2013-25-C03

**Applicant/Authorized Agent:** Federal Highway Administration - Western Federal Lands Highway Division

**Project Location:** Grangemont Road near milepost 19, Clearwater County; Latitude 46°32'22.62 N and Longitude 115°55'7.09 W

**Receiving Water Body:** Bargamin Creek

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on July 22, 2013, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits.

### Project Description

This project involves the realignment of a 0.6 mile segment of road and the removal and replacement of two culverts. This project also includes reclaiming and grading approximately 150 linear feet of stream channel to match surrounding contours. Other work includes installation of culvert sediment barriers at the inlet and outlet, silt fences, sediment wattles, erosion control blankets, cofferdams, and seeding.

### Antidegradation Review

The WQS contain an antidegradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.02.051).

- Tier 1 Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier 2 Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).
- Tier 3 Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ is employing a water body by water body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier 1 protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier 2 protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

### ***Pollutants of Concern***

The primary pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

### ***Receiving Water Body Level of Protection***

This project is located on Bargamin Creek within the Clearwater Subbasin assessment unit (AU) ID17060306CL039\_02 (Shanghai Creek – and tributaries). This AU has the following designated beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and primary contact recreation. There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated.

The cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and primary contact recreation uses in the Bargamin Creek AU are fully supported (2010 Integrated Report). As such, DEQ will provide Tier 2 protection, in addition to Tier 1, for the cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and recreation beneficial uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.051.01).

### ***Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier 1 Protection)***

As noted above, a Tier 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained

and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of designated beneficial uses.

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both designated and existing uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier 1 provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

### ***High-Quality Waters (Tier 2 Protection)***

Bargamin Creek is considered high quality for cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and recreation beneficial uses. As such, the water quality relevant to cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and recreation beneficial uses of Bargamin Creek must be maintained and protected, unless a lowering of water quality is deemed necessary to accommodate important social or economic development.

To determine whether degradation will occur, DEQ must evaluate how the permit issuance will affect water quality for each pollutant that is relevant to cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and recreation beneficial uses of Bargamin Creek (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06). The only pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. Sediment is not relevant to recreational uses. Therefore, this project will not result in a lowering of water quality with respect to recreation beneficial use support. Sediment is relevant to the cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses and, as such, the permittee must minimize the transport of sediment through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs). The permittee will minimize sediment transport during the construction by dewatering the site by constructing temporary cofferdams and installing erosion control blankets, silt fences, and other sediment barriers prior to culvert removal and construction activities. As such, the project complies with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02 and IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06.

Permanent erosion and sediment controls must be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. Although this project may result in minimal short-term sediment impacts to the water body, DEQ does not expect long-term impacts or degradation to the ID17060306CL039\_02 AU or Bargamin Creek. Therefore, DEQ concludes that this project complies with the Tier 2 provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02 and IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06).

## Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

### **General Conditions**

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.
2. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.
4. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel.
5. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit.
6. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the US, coverage under the EPA Stormwater Construction General Permit *must* be obtained. More information can be found at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/Region+10+CGP+resources>.

### **Fill Material**

1. Fill material shall be free of organic and easily suspendable fine material. The fill material to be placed shall include clean earth fill, sand, and stone only.
2. Fill material shall not be placed in a location or in a manner that impairs surface or subsurface water flow into or out of any wetland area.
3. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
4. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
5. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled.

## **Erosion and Sediment Control**

1. BMPs for sediment and erosion control suitable to prevent exceedances of state WQS shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf>. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
2. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
3. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state.
4. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
5. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
6. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
7. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
8. To the extent reasonable and cost-effective, the activity submitted for certification shall be designed to minimize subsequent maintenance.

## **Turbidity**

1. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity during in-water work.
2. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabrics, and silt fences must be implemented and properly maintained to minimize instream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity.
3. Turbidity monitoring must be conducted and recorded. Monitoring must occur each day during project implementation. A properly and regularly calibrated turbidimeter is recommended, but visual observation is acceptable. Turbidity shall not exceed background turbidity by more than 50 NTU instantaneously or more than 25 NTU for more than 10 consecutive days.
4. Copies of daily logs for turbidity monitoring must be available to DEQ upon request. The log must include background measurements (in NTUs) or observations; compliance point measurements or observations; comparison of background and compliance point monitoring as a numeric value (in NTUs) or in narrative form; and location, time, and date for each sampling event. The report must describe all exceedances and subsequent actions taken, monitoring, and the effectiveness of the action.

***In-water Work***

1. Work in open water is to be kept at a minimum and only when necessary. Equipment shall work from an upland site to minimize disturbance of waters of the State. If this is not practicable, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure disturbance to the waters of the State is minimized.
2. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.
3. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or suitably designed pads to prevent damage to the wetlands.
4. Activities in spawning areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
5. Activities that include constructing and maintaining intake structures must include adequate fish screening devices to prevent fish entrainment or capture.
6. Stranded fish found in dewatered segments should be moved to a location (preferably downstream) with water.
7. To minimize sediment transport, stream channel or stream bank stabilization must be completed prior to returning water to a dewatered segment.

***Pollutants/Toxics***

1. The use of chemicals such as soil stabilizers, dust palliatives, sterilants, growth inhibitors, fertilizers, and deicing salts during construction and operation should be limited to the best estimate of optimum application rates. All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid excess application and introduction of chemicals into waters of the state.

***Vegetation Protection and Restoration***

1. Disturbance of existing wetlands and native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum.
2. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
3. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian and wetland vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work.

***Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials***

1. Petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of waters of the state. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that those materials will not enter waters of the state as a result of high water, precipitation runoff, wind, storage facility failure, accidents in operation, or unauthorized third-party activities.
2. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
3. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).

4. Any spill less than 25 gallons must be cleaned up within 24 hours of the release but does not require reporting to DEQ. If the spill is less than 25 gallons and is not cleaned up within 24 hours, then it becomes a reportable quantity.
5. Any spill greater than or equal to 25 gallons must be cleaned up within 24 hours of the release and reported to DEQ by calling 1-800-632-8000 (Idaho State Communications Center). Any spill equal to or greater than 25 gallons is reportable immediately.
6. Any release that causes a sheen (of any size) in waters of the state must be reported immediately to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and the Idaho State Communication Center (1-800-632-8000).

### **Culverts**

1. The culvert shall not constrict the stream channel and shall not be angled such that the outflow is directed toward the stream bank. The culvert's flow line shall match the existing stream invert at its entrance and exit. Adequate grade control shall be installed to prevent channel down cutting or excessive deposition from occurring.
2. The culvert shall be installed such that it does not impede fish passage.
3. The culvert outflow shall be armored with riprap to provide erosion control. This riprap will be clean, angular, dense rock that is free of fines and resistant to aquatic decomposition.
4. Culverts shall be sized appropriately to maintain the natural drainage patterns.

### **Right to Appeal Final Certification**

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the "Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality" (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to John Cardwell, Lewiston Regional Office at (208) 799-4370 or [John.Cardwell@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:John.Cardwell@deq.idaho.gov).

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Clayton Steele  
Regional Administrator  
Lewiston Regional Office