STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippets, Director

August 26, 2016

John Cole
15265 S. River Road
Cataldo, ID 83810

RE: Final §401 Water Quality Certification Bank Stabilization Coeur d'Alene River; NWW-2016-315-C09

Dear Mr. Cole,

Enclosed is the final water quality certification for the above referenced project. The draft certification was advertised for public comment for 21 days from July 22 to August 12, 2016. One comment letter was received but no substantive changes have been made to the final certification. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact June Bergquist at 208.666.4605 or via email at june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov .

Sincerely,

Daniel Redline
Regional Administrator
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office

c: Mike Burgan, Corps of Engineers – Coeur d'Alene Field Office 1910 Northwest Blvd, Suite 210 Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
Nicole Deinarowicz, DEQ State Office

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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Final §401 Water Quality Certification

August 26, 2016

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2016-315-C09; John Cole Bank Stabilization

Applicant/Authorized Agent: John Cole 15265 S. River Road Cataldo, ID 83810

Project Location: T49N R1W section 35; Latitude 47°32' 39.57"N Longitude -116°25'03.78"W

Receiving Water Body: Coeur d'Alene River

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 1, 2016, 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

The applicant proposes to discharge 525 cubic yards of 12 inch minus angular riprap along 935 feet of Coeur d'Alene River bank. Work will be conducted from top of the bank where an excavator will smooth the bank to fill in voids and place rock on top of a geotextile filter fabric. All work will take place above the low water line and conducted during low water. No import or export of soils will occur. Willow bundles will be placed every five feet along the project. Currently there is little vegetation along this bank, however what little exists will be cut only if needed to access the site and disturbed areas reseeded upon work completion. This project was designed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. There will be a 120 ton per year reduction in river sedimentation as a result of this project. Currently the banks are eroding due to wave action from boat wakes as reported by the applicant.

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. Since the project is adding shade by planting willows in an area currently devoid of trees, a temperature increase as a result of this project is not a concern. 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 Coeur d'Alene River within the Coeur d'Alene lake Subbasin assessment unit (AU) ID17010303PN007_06 (Coeur d'Alene River – Latour Creek to mouth). This AU has the following designated beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and primary contact recreation. In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).

According to DEQ's 2012 Integrated Report, this AU is not fully supporting its aquatic life use. Causes of impairment include cadmium, lead, physical substrate habitat alterations, sediment/siltation, temperature and zinc.

The only pollutant of concern associated with this project is sediment, but sediment is not relevant to recreational uses; therefore, it is unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier 2 review for this AU because this project will not create impacts that could affect the recreation use.

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.

Water bodies not supporting existing or designated beneficial uses must be identified as water quality limited, and a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be prepared for those pollutants causing impairment. Once a TMDL is developed, discharges of causative pollutants shall be consistent with the allocations in the TMDL (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.05). Prior to the development of the TMDL, the WQS require the application of the antidegradation policy and implementation provisions to maintain and protect uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.04). Currently, there are no TMDLs developed for this segment of the Coeur d'Alene River.

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. All work will take place above the low water line and conducted during low water to reduce the potential of turbidity. Work will be conducted from top of the bank where an excavator will smooth the bank to fill in voids and place rock on top of a geotextile filter fabric. Metals from contaminated sediments will not be introduced to the river as a result of this work because it will be done in the dry and the bank stabilized which will prevent further introduction of metals bearing sediments to the waterbody. 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).

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. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints.
6. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met.
7. 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.

Fill Material

8. Fill material shall be free of organic and easily suspended fine material.
9. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.

Erosion and Sediment Control

10. 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.

11. One of the first construction activities shall be placing permanent and/or temporary erosion and sediment control measures around the perimeter of the project or initial work areas to protect the project water resources.
12. 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.
13. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed at the earliest practicable time consistent with good construction practices and shall be maintained as necessary throughout project operation.
14. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
15. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
16. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
17. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
18. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
19. Sediment from disturbed areas or able to be tracked by vehicles onto pavement must not be allowed to leave the site in amounts that would reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state. Placement of clean aggregate at all construction entrances or exits and other BMPs such as truck or wheel washes, if needed, must be used when earth-moving equipment will be leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces.

Turbidity

20. Sediment resulting from this activity must be mitigated to prevent violations of the turbidity standard as stipulated under the Idaho WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02). *Any violation of this standard must be reported to the DEQ regional office immediately at 208-666-4605(voice message is acceptable).*
21. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Visual observation is acceptable to determine whether BMPs are functioning properly. If a plume is observed, the project may be causing an exceedance of WQS and the permittee must inspect the condition of the projects BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the permittee must modify the activity or implement additional BMPs (this may also include modifying existing BMPs).

In-water Work

22. Work in open water is not authorized by this certification.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

23. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
24. Fencing and other barriers should be used to mark the construction areas.
25. 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

26. 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.
27. Vegetable-based hydraulic fluid should be used on equipment operating in or directly adjacent to the channel if this fluid is available.
28. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
29. Equipment and machinery shall be steam cleaned sufficiently to remove aquatic invasive species, oils and grease. Cleaning must occur in an upland location or staging area with appropriate wastewater controls to prevent wash water from entering a water of the state.
30. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
31. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850, in the event of an unauthorized release of hazardous material to state waters or to land such that there is a likelihood that it will enter state waters, the responsible persons in charge must
    a. Make every reasonable effort to abate and stop a continuing spill.
    b. Make every reasonable effort to contain spilled material in such a manner that it will not reach surface or ground waters of the state.
    c. Immediately notify DEQ of the spill by calling the Idaho State Communications Center at 1-800-632-8000.
    d. Collect, remove, and dispose of the spilled material in a manner approved by DEQ.

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 June Bergquist at (208) 666-4605 or email at june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov.

Daniel Redline
Regional Administrator
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office