

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440

14 May 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, ALASKA ENGINEER DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Minimal Adverse Effect Determination for the Nationwide Permits (NWPs) Published in the March 12, 2007 Federal Register

- 1. In the March 12, 2007 issue of the <u>Federal Register</u> (72 FR 11092 11198), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced the reissuance of all 43 existing Nationwide Permits (NWPs) and the issuance of six new NWPs. In this <u>Federal Register</u> notice, the Corps also announced the reissuance of 26 existing NWP general conditions and two new NWP general conditions. The NWPs and the general conditions went into effect on March 19, 2007.
- 2. For each of the reissued and new NWPs, the Corps' Headquarters issued a national decision document that contained an Environmental Assessment, a Statement of Findings, public interest review, and as appropriate, a Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines alternatives analysis. The Office of the Chief of Engineers has determined that division engineers will issue supplemental decision documents to address locally important factors relating to the public interest, compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and any potential adverse effects on the human environment, to ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment.
- 3. Each supplemental decision document prepared by the Alaska District also discusses, as appropriate, regional conditions (Encl 1) that are necessary to ensure that activities authorized by each NWP result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the environment. Ten (10) regional conditions for the 2007 NWPs authorized in Alaska have been developed to ensure that authorized activities result in no more than minimal adverse effects.
- 4. Based on the considerations addressed in the supplement (Encl 2) to the national decision document for NWP 48, Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities, described above, and in accordance with 33 CFR 330.4(e)(1) and 330.5(c), I have determined this NWP is revoked in Alaska.
- 5. Based on the considerations addressed in the supplements to the national decision documents for the remaining 48 NWPs described above, and in accordance with 33 CFR 330.4(e)(1) and 330.5(c), I have determined these NWPs, including the limitations, terms and conditions, and applicable regional conditions, will authorize only those activities with minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment, individually or cumulatively. Therefore, I hereby approve the use of these regionally conditioned NWPs.

CEPOD-PDC (1145b)

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6. Please direct any questions to my Pacific Ocean Division Regulatory Program Manager, Mr. Thom E. Lichte, (808) 438-0397.

2 Encls

1. Regional Conditions

2. Supplemental Decision Documents

JOHN W. PEABODY

Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Commanding