

# Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Department of Health  
Environmental Management Division  
Clean Water Branch

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<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/index.html>

# Water Pollution Control Requirements



# Federal Requirements

## ◆ Clean Water Act, Subsection 401(a):

- ◆ “Any **applicant** for a **Federal license or permit** to conduct any activity including, but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities, which may **result** in any **discharge** into the navigable waters , shall provide the licensing or permitting agency a certification from the State in which the discharge originates or will originate, , or, if appropriate, from the interstate water pollution control agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point where the discharge originates or will originate, that any such discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of this Act. . . .”

[40 CFR 121.16]

[33 CFR 325.2.b.1]



# State Water Pollution Control Requirements

- ◆ Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)

- Chapter 342D, Water Pollution

- [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol06\\_Ch0321-0344/HRS0342D/](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol06_Ch0321-0344/HRS0342D/)

- ◆ Hawaii Administrative Rules

- Chapter 11-54, Water Quality Standards

- Chapter 11-55, Water Pollution Control

- <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/about/rules/admrules.html>



# What is "Certification"

- ◆ "Water quality certification" or "certification" means a statement which asserts that a proposed discharge resulting from an activity will not violate applicable **water quality standards**. A water quality certification is required by Section 401 of the Act from any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity, including the construction or operation of facilities which may result in any discharge into navigable waters.

◆ [HAR, 11-54-9.1]



Should a Section 401  
WQC be applied for?



# Who to Contact?

- ◆ Contact Clean Water Branch at  
**(808) 586-4309**; or
- ◆ Contact Regulatory Branch of the  
Honolulu Engineer District (HED), U.S.  
Army Corps of Engineers (COE) at  
**(808) 438-9258**



# Conditionally Certified U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits





# Conditionally Certified DA Permits

## ◆ 16 Nationwide Permits (NWP)

Nos.: 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25,  
31, 33, 36, 38

[File No. 200100500, Expires March 19, 2007]

[DOH File No. WQC 0000543, Expires on March 19, 2007]

## ◆ One (1) State Programmatic General Permits (SPGP)

[ File No. SPGP 2001-01, Expires April 25, 2010]

[DOH File No. WQC 0000536, Expires on Feb. 1, 2008]



# Conditionally Certified NWP's

- ◆ **NWP 3** Maintenance
- ◆ **NWP 4** Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- ◆ **NWP 5** Scientific Measurement Devices
- ◆ **NWP 6** Survey Activities



# Conditionally Certified NWP

- ◆ **NWP 12** Utility Line Activities including construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines (excluding outfall and intake structures) that cross State waters and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for the utility lines, provided there is no change in preconstruction contours. This WQC covers mechanized land clearing necessary for the installation of utility lines crossing State waters, including overhead utility lines, provided the cleared area is kept to the minimum necessary, preconstruction contours are maintained, and the Nationwide Permit permittee (Permittee) complies with requirements established for the storm water discharges associated with construction activities specified in HAR, Chapter 11-55, entitled "Water Pollution Control." However, access roads (temporary or permanent), utility line substations, foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors are excluded from the WQC coverage for this Nationwide Permit.



# Conditionally Certified NWP's

- ◆ **NWP 13** Bank Stabilization (except for bank stabilization activities in excess of 500 feet in length, or greater than an average of one (1) cubic yard per running foot placed along the bank below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line)
- ◆ **NWP 14** Linear Transportation Projects (except for linear transportation activities located in areas that will interfere or affect the existing or designated uses for the affected water body as specified in HAR, Section 11-54-1 and Section 11-54-3.)



# Conditionally Certified NWRPs

- ◆ **NWP 16** Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas (except for discharging of dewatering effluent return flow from the dredged/excavated materials obtained from any contaminated or suspected to be contaminated area(s))
- ◆ **NWP 18** Minor Discharges (excluding the outfall and storm water culvert construction)
- ◆ **NWP 19** Minor Dredging (except for dredging in any contaminated or suspected to be contaminated area(s) or using mechanical equipment for dredging or excavation in any special aquatic site, including wetlands)



# Conditionally Certified NWP's

- ◆ **NWP 22** Removal of Vessels
- ◆ **NWP 25** Structural Discharges
- ◆ **NWP 31** Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Projects
- ◆ **NWP 33** Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering



# Conditionally Certified NWP's

- ◆ **NWP 36** Boat Ramps
- ◆ **NWP 38** Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste



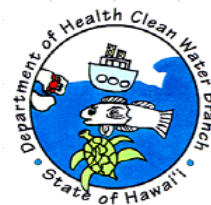
# Conditional Blanket WQC

## File No. WQC 0000543

- ◆ **Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for Certain Department of the Army Nationwide Permits Promulgated in the January 15, 2002, Federal Register Notices, Volume 67, No. 10, in the State of Hawaii**

**File No. WQC 0000543, Expires March 19, 2007**

**Army File No. 200100500, Expires March 19, 2007**

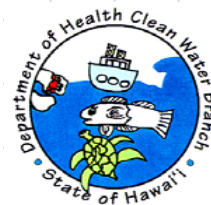




# File No. WQC 0000543

## Validation

- ◆ Up to two (2) years from the issuance date of each individual verification letter issued by DOH, but no later than March 19, 2007.
- ◆ On a case-by-case basis the validation may be administratively extended by the Director
- ◆ Coverage may be modified or revoked by the Director



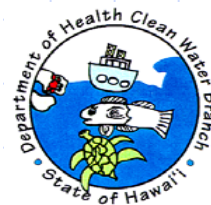
# Conditionally Certified DA State Programmatic General Permit

## ◆ BEACH NOURISHMENT, RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Authorization under this SPGP allows the placement of up to 10,000 cubic yards of sand below the high tide line.

[File No. SPGP 2001-01, Expires April 24, 2010]

[<http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/news/PublicNotices.html>]



# Conditional Blanket WQC

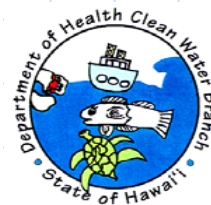
## File No. WQC 0000536

◆ This WQC covers the placement of up to a maximum of 10,000 cubic yards (CY) beach sand of acceptable quality on sand beaches and/or in waters:

- (1) As a viable alternative to shoreline hardening/armoring; or
- (2) To nourish, restore, or enhance the existing sand beaches.

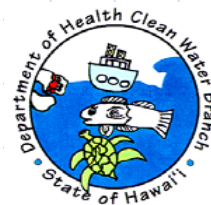
**File No. WQC 0000536, Expires February 1, 2008**

**DA File No. SPGP 2001-01, Expires April 25, 2010**



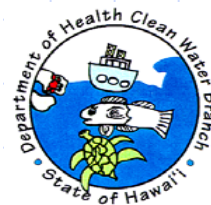
# Certification Coverage Validation

- ◆ Up to one (1) year from the issuance date of each individual verification letter issued by DOH, but no later than February 1, 2008.
- ◆ On a case-by-case basis the validation may be administratively extended by the Director
- ◆ Coverage may be modified or revoked by the Director



# Blanket Certification Coverage Extension

- ◆ Permittee submit a written request and demonstrates that:
  - (1) no significant changes to the project scope;
  - (2) changes will not, either individually or cumulatively, cause adverse impact to the receiving water quality; and
  - (3) the project is under construction and the purpose of extending the expiration date is to allow the contractor to complete the project construction. (Color photos required)



# Certification Modification or Coverage Revocation

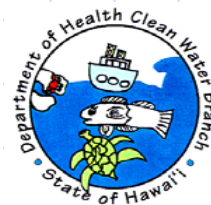
- ◆ Applicable water quality standards established before the activity is completed
- ◆ Violate of new water quality standards
- ◆ Violate or non-compliance with any existing water quality standards or condition(s) or requirement(s)
- ◆ Failure to disclose all relevant facts



# Geographical Areas

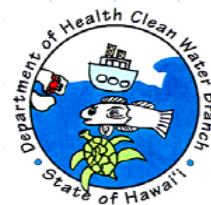
## Not Applicable to the Blanket Certifications

- > Natural lakes and anchialine pools
- > Class 1 Inland Waters
- > Estuaries
- > Class AA Marine Waters
- > Embayments
- > Class I Marine Bottoms
- > CWA, 303(d) Listed Impaired Water Bodies



# Blanket Certification Does not Cover

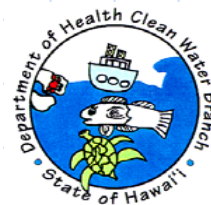
- ◆ After the fact permits
- ◆ Provisional permits
- ◆ Discharge Authorized Under Section 402 of the CWA (NPDES permit)
- ◆ Same NWP used more than once for a single and complete project
- ◆ Inconsistent with 11-54-1.1 or 11-54-3 of HAR
- ◆ When the Director finds that it is more appropriate to evaluate the project impacts under an individual application for a WQC





# Blanket Certification Notification Requirements

- ◆ General information regarding the Owner(s), Contractor(s), Location (including TMKs and Coordinates), DA File number, Scope of Work, Quality and Quantity of the proposed discharges, Authorization of Representative
- ◆ Site-specific Best Management Practices Plan (including disturbed site restoration plan)
- ◆ Applicable Monitoring and Assessment Plan
- ◆ Mitigation/Compensation Plan (special aquatic site including wetland)
- ◆ Additional information



# Application Requirements and Processing Procedures for Section 401 WQC



# Application Review Process

- ◆ Individual Certification Application:  
Up to one year to process after receipt of a complete application
- ◆ Notification information for a blanket certification coverage for the Nationwide and General Permits:  
Up to 30 days to review the information and render the determination



# Filing Fee

- ◆ Notification (DA PCN) for Conditional Blanket Certification Coverage  
**No filing fee**
- ◆ Individual Certification Application  
**\$1000 filing fee**



# Recommendation

- ◆ Contact the Clean Water Branch as early as possible



# Clean Water Branch

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Room 301

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4920

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