

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/18/2023 5:29:57 PM

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Comments: Thank you for requesting comments from our office regarding the proposed subject project or activity that may have the potential to impact aquatic resources. We appreciate that you are considering our potential regulatory role in the project, but we do not currently have the ability to provide project-specific comments. If the activity should have the potential to result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, then the project proponent should work directly with our office to acquire necessary Corps permits, if applicable, as described in the following general comment:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires a permit from us for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States may include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, wet meadows, seeps, and some irrigation ditches. To ascertain the extent of waters on the project site, the applicant should prepare a delineation of aquatic resources, in accordance with the applicable standards, including the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and appropriate regional supplements. These standards can be found on our website at: <https://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Jurisdiction/>.

An aquatic resource delineation should be evaluated prior to designing a project to ensure the project proponent avoids and minimizes impacts to waters of the United States to the greatest practicable extent. The range of alternatives considered for this project should include alternatives that avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands, streams, or other waters of the United States. Every effort should be made to avoid project features which require the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In the event it can be clearly demonstrated there are no practicable alternatives to discharging dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, compensatory mitigation may be required.

For more information about our program or to locate a list of consultants that prepare aquatic resource delineations and permit application documents, please visit our website at <https://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/>.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District - Regulatory Division

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