



Chicago District Corps of Engineers 2017 Regional Permit Program Update

On April 1, 2017, the Regional Permit Program (RPP) recently modified by the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was reissued and formally put into effect. The RPP covers activities having minimal impacts on aquatic resources in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois. The RPP consists of 13 Regional Permits (RPs) covering certain types of activities, as well as the procedures and conditions that must be followed to be authorized under the program. Major changes within the newly reissued RPP include the following:

- Clarified definition of “impact” and removed the term “temporary fill”.
- Added the Illinois Coastal Management Program as a General Condition.
- Revised Best Management Practices (BMPs) to provide guidance towards fulfilling the requirement, including examples of acceptable BMPs.
- Eliminated exceedance of 0.25 acre for impacts to waterways for any single crossing for RP3 (Transportation Project). The upper cumulative limit for impacts remains 1.0 acre.
- Under RP3 for bridge and culvert crossings, the cross-sections up-stream and down-stream are required, and the crossing must be designed to maintain width of base flow channel.
- Consideration of arch-span and bottomless culverts for perennial stream crossings is no longer required for RP3, except on a case-by-case basis.
- Increased from 25 cubic yards to 50 cubic yards of allowable discharged material into waterways for RP4 (Minor Dredging and Discharges).
- Decreased the list of waterways requiring a separate Water Quality Certification for RP4 has decreased. The only waterways now certification are Fox River (including Fox Chain of Lakes), Lake Michigan, Pettibone Creek, and Kankakee River.
- Eliminated the upper limit of 0.25 acres for temporary fills for RP7. No upper limit is specified.
- Revised RP9 (Maintenance) to specify replacement of culverts is not allowed if it impedes low water flows or safe passage of fish and aquatic organisms.
- For RP12 (Bridge Scour Protection), all projects will now be processed as Category I as opposed to Category II.

The 2017 Regional Permit Program in its entirety is found here:

<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Portals/36/docs/regulatory/pdf/RPP2017.pdf>

ALL LANES ARE OPEN ON I-90 AT THE FOX RIVER!

H&H was one of 46 firms who participated on the recently completed I-90 bridge project over the Fox River in Elgin, Illinois. The project involved replacement of the two existing four-lane bridges, as well as a bike and pedestrian path bridge below the main thoroughfare.

H&H provided a wide range of services for this project as a subcontractor to Stanley Consultants, including Section 404 permitting (individual permit); development of a restoration plan for the Fox River Country Day School property to serve as mitigation for the project; Phase I and Phase II site assessments; natural resources surveys (trees, wetlands, streams; threatened and endangered species); special waste screening and soil disposal permitting; anti-degradation assessments; erosion control planning; and recommendations for best management practices. The project was awarded ACEC-IL’s Eminent Conceptor Award earlier this year.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

New Leaders Page 2
 Traffic Noise Analysis Page 4
 Engineering Excellence Award Page 5
 Professional Development . . . Page 6

H&H/GZA NEW LEADERS ANNOUNCEMENT



James Novak, PWS



Margaret Panatera, P.E.



Jeremy Reynolds, P.G.

Growth from within; it's a deep desire of any company, proof that their culture is healthy, and providing smooth advancement in their business. In that spirit, Huff & Huff is especially proud and honored to announce the following promotions of three key family members, together totaling nearly 6 decades of environmental experience at H&H alone!

Jeremy Reynolds is now an Associate Principal in our Oak Brook office. Jeremy is a professional geologist, with extensive experience in clean construction and demolition debris screening, remediation, site assessments, hazardous waste sites and hazardous waste management. Jeremy has long been an extremely active participant in ACEC, the American Public Works Association, and local community environmental issues.

Jim Novak also earned promotion to Associate Principal. Jim, a wetlands scientist, had been heavily experienced in natural resources and permitting long before his beard turned white! He's long been involved in transportation projects at all lev-

els and while wearing various hats, including those of noise expert, public involvement and technical writing.

And proving good things come in threes, we have Margaret Panatera, the Oak Brook office's new District Office Manager. We at H&H have been blessed to have Margaret here since she began her professional career fresh out of Bradley University. Margaret, a Professional Engineer in multiple states, exemplifies H&H's dedication to a depth of professional knowledge coupled with a personal sincerity, understanding, and compassion that develops strong bonds with both our clients and her co-workers. Margaret proactively works for solutions, often even before a client realizes a problem exists. She has long been to the go-to person in the office for regulatory compliance issues, and a comforting force in day-to-day office issues.

With the leadership of these three, all of them benefitting so greatly from Linda & Jim's guidance, knowledge and tutelage, H&H's light will continue to shine brightly.

AVOIDING PITFALLS FOR VAPOR INTRUSION UNDER TACO

Going on nearly four years since rules for addressing the indoor air inhalation pathway (vapor intrusion) were promulgated under the Illinois Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives (TACO) regulation (35 IAC 742), one pitfall regarding use of the Tier 1 ROs for vapor intrusion is still commonly encountered.

Many understand that vapor intrusion concerns for a building can be addressed by installing a Building Control Technology (BCT) under the TACO rules. Often less understood is that restrictions on the building foundation may be imposed even if groundwater and soil gas concentrations meet the Tier 1 remedial objectives (ROs) for vapor intrusion. The Tier 1 ROs were developed using the Johnson & Ettinger (J&E) Model with the assumption that a building is constructed with slab-on-grade foundation or a full concrete basement with walls and floor with no sumps ("Footnote J" requirement). Accordingly, the Tier 1 ROs are only applicable for buildings with such foundations.

The only ways to avoid the Footnote J requirement (without installing a BCT) are to (1) eliminate vapor intrusion as a pathway of concern by having no volatile compounds detected in any media (soil, groundwater, or soil gas) or (2) by completing a Tier 3 modeling analysis that assumes the building has an earthen floor. Tier 3 analyses based on the Little, Daisy, and Nazaroff (LDN) model have been approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) previously and provide a method to eliminate the Footnote J foundation requirements in many cases.

CORNER

The One Hundred Fifteenth US Congress convened on January 3, 2017. A number of bills and resolutions related to the regulation of threatened and endangered species, as well as the Clean Water Act, were introduced. Below is a summary of several of these bills and resolutions.

- The Listing Reform Act (H. R. 717) amends the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 to require review of economic cost of adding a species to the list and allows the Department of the Interior to prioritize consideration of petitions.
- The 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act (H. R. 1273 & S.376) specifies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) shall make publicly available the best scientific and commercial data available that are the basis for each regulation.
- The Greater Sage Grouse Protection and Recovery Act of 2017 (H.R.527 & S.273) states the FWS may not invalidate the October 2, 2015 finding that the greater sage grouse is not an endangered or threatened species until September 30, 2027.
- The Stopping EPA Overreach Act of 2017 (H.R.637) amends the Clean Air Act to exclude carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride pollution from the scope of that Act.
- The Federal Regulatory Certainty for Water Act (H. R. 1261) repeals the Clean Water Rule Definition of 'Waters of the United States' and amends Section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362) to define the term 'navigable waters' as to not include wetlands, including playa lakes, prairie potholes, wet meadows, wet prairies, and vernal pools, that lack a continuous surface water connection to bodies of water that are navigable (navigable-in-fact; or "permanent or continuously flowing bodies of water that form geographical features commonly known as streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes that are connected to waters that are navigable-in-fact").

At this time none of the above bills and regulations have become law or been passed. H&H will continue to monitor the status of these and other bills.

PREQUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



For a number of years now, H&H has been prequalified for various Environmental Services with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Recently, we were awarded Special Services – Landscape Architecture, a pre-qualification that was not possible until adding landscape architecture to the Oak Brook office. Soon, H&H will help shape the landscape of our roadways and rest areas, something that most motorists take for granted. But it also goes beyond landscape design. H&H has an opportuni-

ty to help shape sustainable design initiatives throughout IDOT landscapes, such as utilization of Context Sensitive Solutions and sustainable design and construction techniques. These opportunities include use of recyclable and environmentally friendly material (when possible) and supporting the State's first Bike Transportation Plan that will include bicycle-friendly recommendations around planning, policy, safety, design and maintenance, performance measures, outreach and more.



SAFETY PITCHES A SHUT-OUT!!

GZA offices throughout the country were proud to celebrate a 2016 that was free of OSHA-recordable incidents! We celebrated with hi-visibility winter caps and hi-tastibility cake for all. Both were well-received. A big thank you to all employees for being safe both in the field and in the office; and for faithfully keeping up the culture of safety at GZA.



SPRINGTIME SAFETY SECTION

SAFETY CHECK: Stand Up to Falls

Home is the place where we feel most safe, so it may come as a surprise to hear that falls in the home are one of the leading causes of injury-related death in the U.S., second only to poisoning. Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries, including concussions.



Time for spring cleaning! Eliminate tripping hazards

- Prevent falls at home—and at work by removing the sources of tripping:
- Secure electric and phone cords away from walking areas
- Use non-skid rugs and be sure to tape them down to prevent rolling
- Keep drawers and cabinets closed when not in use
- Wear proper footwear, paying special attention to outdoor conditions
- Clean up any spills immediately and include warning signage
- Refrain from walking while distracted
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in your workspace
- Carry only what you can handle—large loads obstruct your view

Riding the Storm Out

Illinois EPA's long-awaited General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Industrial Activities became effective April 5, 2017. Examples of new special conditions and requirements include:

- Assessment of discharge to an impaired water body and applicable U.S. EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Waste Load Allocation (WLA)
- For an applicable WLA, calculation and comparison of pollutant loading to the WLA (requirement to implement control measures to reduce loadings if not achieving)
- Without an applicable TMDL and WLA on an impaired water, monitoring impairment pollutants at each outfall once per year
- Conducting benchmark monitoring (requirement based on SIC code) and adding applicable schedule and benchmark control values in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- Documentation and implementation of pollution prevention measures to minimize exposure of de-icing materials to storm water

The full list of changes and additions can be reviewed through the permit web address below. If your facility is covered under this permit, prepare to revamp the storm water program!

www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/forms/water-permits/storm-water/industrial/index

TNM 3.0



Traffic Noise
Analysis
Updates!
We Are
Prepared.

FHWA is releasing the Traffic Noise Model 3.0, and we are prepared to support your traffic noise analysis requirements for transportation projects. Look for updates to state noise policies coming in 2017! We will continue our IDOT and Illinois Tollway traffic noise support and project work.

H&H Awarded Engineering Excellence Award from ACEC-IL

February 9, 2017, H&H was awarded an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies-Illinois Chapter (ACEC-IL) in the "Study, Research, and Consulting Category" at the annual awards luncheon for outstanding water quality, stormwater management, public education, and stakeholder engagement services. Huff & Huff, Inc., in collaboration with the Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group (HCWPG), implemented a holistic approach toward developing the Phase 1 study for a Third-Party Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in the Hickory Creek watershed located in Will and Cook Counties, IL. The study was titled "Engage+ Innovate+ Sustain=Triple Bottom Line". HCWPG consists of nine mu-

nicipalities and agencies working to protect and restore Hickory Creek and its tributaries: City of Joliet, Village of New Lenox, Village of Orland Park, Village of Frankfort, Village of Mokena, Village of Homer Glen, Village of Tinley Park, Will County-Land Use Department, and the Forest Preserve of Will County.



S - A - N - D

Sand has been mined for industrial purposes across the United States for more than a century. Wisconsin and Illinois act as two of the largest producers of sand in the United States. Referred to as silica sand or industrial sand, it is used for a variety of purposes ranging from use as an abrasive in toothpaste to hydraulic fracturing by the oil and gas industry. (enabling recovery of oil and natural gas from geologic materials which would otherwise be impractical). It is the use of silica sand by the oil and gas industry which has resulted in the widely used term "frac sand".

The demand from the oil and gas industry for silica sand has recently resulted in a rapid increase in produc-

tion. During the time period from 2005 to 2014 the production of silica sand more than doubled. GZA works closely with those in the mining industry to provide assistance with various mining aspects ranging from wetland delineations and SPCC Plans, to permitting of completed areas of mines for reclamation using clean construction and demolition debris. Silica sand mining has been a significant driver of economic growth in rural areas across the Upper Midwest. If done in an environmentally responsible manner, it is considered to be an important source of employment to communities for decades to come.

HAZARD PLANNING: TICKET TO MITIGATION FUNDING

When the next flood comes, will your community be ready? Is your critical infrastructure at risk for damages and possibly service interruptions? With some up-front planning, mitigation projects can be funded up to 75% by federal grants. If your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and has a current Hazard Mitigation Plan, you are eligible for grants. Is your plan up to date?

A Vulnerability Assessment of critical infrastructure is a good first step to establish priority mitigation projects for grant applications, including water & wastewater facilities; dams and levees; transportation; power plants; hospitals, police and fire departments, schools, emergency shelters, & municipal offices. Mitigation measures may include flood-vulnerable property buyouts, elevating or relocating structures, and hardening facilities with retrofits such as berms, drainage improvements, or other flood-proofing measures. River restoration or enlarged culverts with natural channel bottoms could help alleviate flood bottlenecks.

Contact Linda Hutchins at: linda.hutchins@gza.com or 630-684-4438 to discuss how we can help your community be prepared for the next flood!



Professional Development at H&H/GZA



Here at H&H/GZA we realize that you have to keep growing or you will be left behind. In that light, here are some of the credentials and certifications obtained by our staff recently.

Tim Huff has earned the right to trail the initials “AICP” after his name, as he is now an official member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Past planning experience is a major part of the certification, so he’s no rookie planner.

If visible emissions are your problem, **Gerry Trzupke** can be part of your solution. He was certified as an Evaluator of Visible Emissions in order to officially be able to determine opacity based on USEPA Method 9.

Erosion got you down? Contact **Nikki Pisula**. She can now add Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC) to her list of skills and

titles. Writing SWPPPs, NOIs and conducting inspections are well within her bailiwick.

Lake County gets double coverage as **Kevin Walsh** and **Erin Hokanson** have both passed the exam qualifying them as Lake County (IL) Certified Wetland Specialists, joining the ranks of the other CWS at H&H. They can both now sign off on watershed permits, and even serve as wetland specialists for communities in the county.

Finally, in the spirit of our other accomplishments above, even if not as ‘recent’, H&H would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate **Evan Markowitz, Jim Novak and Nikki Pisula** for joining the official ranks of Professional Wetland Scientists. Earning the distinction requires extensive experience, numerous references, various other certifications and – fitting in any regulatory context – an extremely lengthy application. Thanks to everyone above for helping ensure that H&H will continue to “Make a Difference.”

