

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Certification under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act

In the matter of: Navigational Maintenance Dredging of Holland Inner Harbor Federal
 Navigational Channel Project
 Ottawa County, Michigan
 Department of the Army
 Detroit District, Corps of Engineers

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) certifies that the proposed dredging by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the Holland Inner Harbor federal navigational channel and the discharge of dredged materials dewatering effluent from the Holland Harbor Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF) located on the north side of the Macatawa River, in Holland Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, will comply with Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and the Michigan Water Quality Standards, provided that the conditions set forth in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) are met. This Certification is based on the December 18, 2023, request from the USACE and information provided with that request.

Certification Conditions:

1. The Grand Rapids District Supervisor, EGLE, shall be notified 48 hours prior to the commencement of dredging operations in the Holland Harbor federal navigational channel.
2. Initiation of any work on this project confirms the USACE acceptance and agreement to comply with all terms and conditions of this Certification.
3. Due to fisheries concerns in the area, dredging dates are restricted as outlined in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Fisheries Division, Preferred Dredging Periods document, unless modification to the established dates is requested by USACE staff and approved in writing by MDNR, Fisheries Division, staff. Any letter of approval or denial of this condition should be forwarded to the EGLE Grand Rapids District Supervisor.
4. The dredging operation shall be limited to the boundaries of the Holland Inner Harbor federal navigational channel as defined in Figure 1.
5. Open water disposal of sediments associated with this project is not allowed.
6. During dredging, the resuspension of silt, other fine particles or materials, oils, and films shall be maintained below quantities that are, or may become, injurious to any designated uses by careful equipment operation and, if necessary, the use of an environmental bucket or hydraulic dredge, floating booms, silt curtains or screens, and other suitable means.
7. During the period beginning on the effective date and lasting until the expiration date of this certification, the USACE is authorized to discharge dredging dewatering effluent to the surface waters of the state of Michigan from the Holland Harbor DMDF. Such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the USACE as specified below.

Parameter	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Monthly	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Daily	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Units	Maximum Limits for Quality or Concentration Monthly	Maximum Limits for Quality or Concentration Daily	Maximum Limits for Quality or Concentration Units	Frequency of Analysis	Sample Type
Flow	(report)	(report)	MGD	---	---	---	Daily	Report Total Daily Flow
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	---	---	---	(report)	70	mg/l	See Part 7.b.	3-Portion Composite
Turbidity (see Part 5.c.)	---	---	---	(report)	160	NTU	See Part 7.c.	Grab
Total Phosphorus	(report)	---	---	---	---	---	Weekly	Grab
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus	(report)	---	---	---	---	---	Weekly	Grab
Outfall Observation	(report)	---	---	---	---	---	Daily	Visual
Equipment Inspection	(report)	---	---	---	---	---	Daily	Visual

Parameter	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Monthly	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Daily	Maximum Limits for Quantity or Loading Units	Minimum Daily	Maximum Daily	Maximum Limits for Quality or Concentration Units	Frequency of Analysis	Sample Type
Dissolved Oxygen	---	---	---	4	---	mg/l	Daily	Grab
pH	---	---	---	6.5	9	S.U.	Daily	Grab

a. Monitoring Location

Samples, measurements, and observations for compliance with the monitoring requirements above shall be taken of the discharge prior to it mixing with the waters of the state of Michigan.

b. Frequency of Analysis for Turbidity and TSS

The USACE shall monitor TSS effluent limits either by direct measurement or by a combination of direct and indirect methods. The monitoring method will determine the frequency of analysis required for each parameter, as described below.

1) Direct Measurement

If the USACE monitors TSS by direct measurement only, the monitoring frequency shall be daily. Turbidity requirements will **not** be in effect.

2) Combination of Direct and Indirect Measurement

If the USACE monitors TSS using a combination of direct and indirect methods, the USACE shall monitor turbidity as an indirect, partial substitute for monitoring TSS. The monitoring frequency shall be daily for turbidity pursuant to 7.C and weekly for direct measurement of TSS. Any exceedance of the turbidity limitations shall be considered an exceedance of the TSS limitations.

c. Monitoring Requirements for Turbidity

The monitoring requirements for turbidity are in effect only if the USACE uses turbidity to indirectly determine compliance for TSS as described in 7.b.2. If the USACE does not use indirect methods for TSS monitoring the USACE is not required to monitor for turbidity.

Monitoring for turbidity shall be conducted daily during periods of discharge, be representative of the discharge, and analyzed using United States Environmental Protection Agency-approved methods. A minimum of 4 turbidity samples are required daily. All turbidity samples shall be collected at equal intervals over the discharge period for that day. An average of the results from all turbidity monitoring conducted during the day shall be used to determine compliance with the daily maximum effluent limitation. All daily averages for the month shall be averaged to determine compliance with the monthly average effluent limitation. If the discharge levels for turbidity exceed the limits, the USACE shall maximize the treatment process as described in the certification request.

The USACE may choose to demonstrate that an alternate site-specific turbidity effluent limitation is appropriate. Such request and supporting documentation shall be submitted to the EGLE, Grand Rapids District Supervisor. Supporting documentation shall include a calculation of the correlation between turbidity and TSS. If alternate site-specific turbidity effluent limitation is approved, the certification shall be modified in accordance with applicable laws and rules to incorporate the alternate site-specific turbidity effluent limitation.

8. The discharge shall not have any unnatural physical properties in quantities that are, or may become, injurious to any designated uses as prescribed in Michigan's Part 4 Rules, Water Quality Standards, promulgated under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Any unusual characteristics of the discharge (unnatural turbidity; color; oil film; floating solids; foams; settleable solids; or deposits) to the Macatawa River shall be reported immediately to the EGLE, Grand Rapids District Supervisor, followed by a written report within 10 days detailing the findings of the investigation and steps taken to correct the condition(s).
9. The outlet of the DMDF shall convey the discharge in an erosion-free manner to the Macatawa River.
10. All laboratory sampling results shall be sent to the Grand Rapids District Supervisor, at EGLE, Water Resources Division, 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341, within 30 days after termination of the sediment dewatering discharge.
11. DMDF – Changes

The USACE shall submit a written request for approval to the EGLE., Grand Rapids District Supervisor, within 10 days prior to any change that may occur in the structures or operation and maintenance of the DMDF, which may affect compliance with the Michigan water quality standards, terms, or conditions of this Certification.

12. Right of Entry

The USACE shall allow the EGLE, Grand Rapids District Supervisor, or any agent appointed by the EGLE, Grand Rapids District Supervisor, upon the presentation of credentials, to do the following:

- a. Enter upon the USACE premises where an effluent source is located to inspect process facilities, treatment works, monitoring methods, and equipment regulated or required under this Certification; and to sample waters or sediments within the DMDF, and/or discharge of pollutants.
- b. At reasonable times to view and have copies of any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this Certification.

13. It is the duty of the USACE to comply with all the terms and conditions of this Certification. Any noncompliance with the conditions or terms of this Certification constitutes a violation of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and/or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and constitutes grounds for enforcement action; Certification termination; revocation, reissuance, or modification; or denial of a future application.

14. Civil and Criminal Liability

Nothing in this Certification shall be construed to relieve the USACE from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance, regardless of whether such noncompliance is due to factors beyond the USACE control, such as accidents, equipment breakdowns, labor disputes, or contractor performance.

15. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this Certification shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the USACE from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the USACE may be subject under Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act except as are exempted by federal regulations.

16. State Laws

Nothing in this Certification shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the USACE from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable state or federal law.

17. Natural Resources Damages and Penalties

The State of Michigan reserves the right to seek civil and/or criminal penalties and liabilities under applicable law for natural resource damages that may occur.

18. Certifications and Approvals

Nothing herein shall relieve the USACE from the requirement to obtain any other necessary state, federal, or local permits, including other permits from EGLE, certifications, licenses, or approvals for the beach application of dredge materials and navigational dredging operations.

19. This certification supersedes all previous certifications issued for the Holland Inner Harbor Federal Navigation Channel and upon issuance of this certification all other certifications become void.

Issued this XXth day of April 2024 and shall expire on the XXth day of April 2029.

Gary Kohlhepp, Acting Manager
Great Lakes Watersheds Assessment, Restoration, and
Management Section
Water Resources Division



Figure 1. Holland Inner Harbor dredging area (white) and DMDF location (red circle).