



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

## Nationwide Permit Reissuance 2017 Seattle District Informational Paper December 14, 2015

To obtain a copy of the *User's Guide for Nationwide Permits in Washington State*, please visit our website at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> click on the green box "Regulatory Branch Permit Information" then click on "Permit Guidebook," "Permitting," and "Nationwide Permits."

**Summary:** Nationwide Permits (NWP) encourage applicants to minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by designing projects to meet the requirements and conditions of a NWP. NWPs provide expedited review of projects having minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts on the aquatic environment. Categories of activities that may be covered under these NWPs include linear transportation projects, bank stabilization activities, residential development, commercial and industrial developments, mooring buoys, and certain maintenance activities.

Division Engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are important mechanisms to ensure impacts to the aquatic environment authorized by the NWPs are minimal, both individually and cumulatively.

**The Reissuance Process:** The Clean Water Act of 1977 requires the Corps to reissue NWPs every five years. The 2012 NWPs became effective on March 19, 2012 and will expire on March 18, 2017. Our goal is to have the 2017 NWPs ready for use when the 2012 NWPs expire. The process for issuing nationwide permits is a rulemaking activity. The proposal to reissue the NWPs is projected to be published in the *Federal Register* in February 2016, for a 60-day public comment period. Concurrent with the *Federal Register* notice, the Seattle District will issue a local public notice for a 30-day comment period to solicit comments on proposed regional conditions to ensure that projects authorized by a NWP have minimal impacts. All comments received will be carefully considered. We plan to work closely with Native American tribes in Washington State to ensure treaty rights and natural and cultural resources are not adversely impacted. We will also work with State and Federal resource agencies to ensure consistency with current laws, regulations, policies, and practices.

## **US Army Corps of Engineers – Contacts for 2017 NWP Reissuance**

### **Regulatory Branch**

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## **Interested in Providing Comments?**

Please send comments on the Nationwide Permit terms and conditions, National General Conditions, and Definitions directly to Headquarters:

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Regulatory  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Please send comments on Regional General Conditions, Regional Conditions, and Notes (regional) to:

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