



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Wilmington District

**For Immediate Release
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POC: Elizabeth D. Porter
Elizabeth.Porter@us.army.mil
Wilmington Regulatory Division
(910) 251-4810**

RELEASE OF NEW PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION (PCN) FORM

Wilmington, NC - The Wilmington District announces the availability of a new Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) form used for nationwide (NWP) and regional general permits (GP) with reporting requirements. The new form incorporates content necessary for meeting the Corps reporting requirements for current NWP and GP programs, as well as for the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) reporting requirements for the state water quality consistency program, buffer and stormwater rules, pond construction and mitigation requirements for both the Corps and DWQ. The PCN cannot be used to meet the reporting requirements for individual general permits.

The new PCN form and companion help document can be downloaded from the Corps web site at: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/pcn/>.

Corps of Engineers Requirements

Where required by the terms of the NWP or GP, the applicant for the permit must notify the district engineer via the appropriate field office by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) prior to any work in jurisdictional waters or wetlands for the project. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, as a general rule, will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the applicant does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the applicant that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will end until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. Additionally, the permit application is not deemed complete and work cannot commence until all required special pre-conditions are met as required by the permit, including all relevant general and regional conditions.

The applicant shall not begin the activity until either:

- (1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer;
- or
- (2) Forty-five calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the completed PCN and the applicant has not received written notice from the district or division engineer.

The applicant must review the terms of the specific permit sought to ensure that all requirements are met. The Corps cannot require applicants to use the PCN form; however all content – the written requirements for all Corps nationwide or regional general permits must be provided to the responsible field office for approval by the District Engineer. Materials submitted must be also be clearly labeled with all required content before any work is commenced. The PCN form is designed specifically to facilitate this reporting. The PCN is structured to help applicants meet the requirements of the permit sought.

Regulatory Agency Coordination

Because the PCN is a joint effort with NC DWQ, the applicant should ensure that all DWQ requirements are met in addition to Corps requirements. This will enable the applicant to realize the time savings by using one form to meet both agencies' regulatory requirements for a proposed project. Furthermore, unlike the Corps, DWQ may require applicants to use the PCN form. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review all NC DWQ reporting requirements before deciding to submit PCN notification without using the PCN form.

Authority

The Pre-Construction Notification for the Corps is authorized under General Condition 27 of the Nationwide Permits, last renewed March 19, 2007 and effective until March 18, 2012.

Process

The revised PCN form has been reviewed by representatives from each field office of the Wilmington District and by the NC DWQ.

Format

The revised PCN form is currently in Word format that can be downloaded to a user's computer to be filled out online. The PCN form will also be available as a PDF file that can be printed from the Corps web site or mailed to an applicant to be written in by hand.

Additional information concerning this PCN can be obtained from Elizabeth Porter, Wilmington Regulatory Division, Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343, or telephone (910) 251-4810, or via email at Elizabeth.Porter@us.army.mil.