

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**  
***General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit for***  
**Emergency Infrastructure Repair**

---



**Effective Date:** April 7, 2015  
**Expiration Date:** April 6, 2020

**Activities Covered by this Permit:**

This general permit authorizes stream and wetland alterations necessary to repair imminent threats to public infrastructure that may pose immediate danger to public health, safety, or the environment. Where feasible, the repair should restore the resource to pre-emergency conditions. Infrastructure means any transportation corridor such as roads, railways, water courses or runways, any utility, whether public or private, and other critical structures immediately adjacent to waters of the state. This general permit is not intended to address chronic problems, or threats to structures whose failure would not present a danger to public safety or the environment.

Certain activities due to size, location or potential water quality impacts are not covered under this general permit, as described in both the Special and General Conditions sections. Activities not qualifying for authorization under this general permit may be authorized by a standard (individual) permit provided that all requirements of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* (the *Act*) are met.

**Special Conditions**

1. The chief administrative officer of the utility, public works, public highway or transportation department, or their authorized designee, shall notify the division by telephone, as soon as practicable but not later than 48 hours after discovery that an emergency has arisen, and indicate their intentions to make repairs in response to the emergency. No advanced authorization is required where immediate repairs are necessary to protect immediate threats to human safety and welfare.
2. Within ten (10) days of completion of the emergency repair work, the division shall be notified, in writing, of the action taken and the nature of the emergency necessitating such immediate repairs.
3. Emergency infrastructure repair work authorized under this general permit shall be limited to 300 linear feet.
4. All work shall be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in Rule 0400-40-03 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This includes, but is not limited to, the prevention of any discharge that causes a condition in which visible solids, bottom deposits, or turbidity impairs the usefulness of waters of the state for any of the uses designated by Rule 0400-40-04. These uses include fish and aquatic life (including trout streams and naturally reproducing trout streams), livestock watering and wildlife, recreation, irrigation, industrial water supply, domestic water supply, and navigation.
5. Applicant is responsible for obtaining the necessary authorization pursuant to applicable provisions of §10 of The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; §404 of The Clean Water Act and §26a of The Tennessee Valley Authority Act, as well as any other federal, state or local laws.
6. Emergency repair work shall be limited to that necessary to remove an immediate threat to public safety, and to restore pre-emergency conditions where feasible.

7. Unless specifically necessary to abate the immediate threat to public health, safety, or the environment, channel enlargements or realignments are not authorized under this general permit.

### **General Conditions**

1. All activities must be accomplished in conformance with the approved plans, specifications, data and other information submitted in support of the ARAP application (form CN-1091) and the limitations, requirements and conditions set forth herein. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit is a violation of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977 (the Act), and is subject to penalty in accordance with T.C.A. §69-3-115.
2. Activities, either individually or cumulatively, that may result in greater than *de minimis* degradation to waters of the state are not covered. This general permit shall not be used incrementally to combine with other activities resulting in a net loss of water resource values.
3. Clearing, grubbing, and other disturbance to riparian vegetation shall be kept at the minimum necessary for slope construction and equipment operations. Unnecessary riparian vegetation removal, including trees, is prohibited. Native riparian vegetation must be reestablished after work is completed. Non-native, non-invasive annuals may be used as cover crops until native species are established. Coverage under this permit does not serve to waive any local riparian buffer protection requirement, and permittees are responsible for obtaining any necessary local approval.
4. Unnecessary widening of the stream channel as a result of this activity is prohibited.
5. This activity may not result in a disruption or barrier to the movement of fish or other aquatic life.
6. Activities that unnecessarily impact wetlands, or permanently impair surface water flow into or out of any adjacent wetland areas are prohibited.
7. Activities located in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System or waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters are not covered.
8. Activities occurring in known or likely habitat of state or federally listed threatened, endangered, deemed in need of management, or species of special concern may not be authorized without prior coordination with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and TDEC Division of Natural Areas (DNA) to determine if any special conditions are required to avoid and/or minimize harm to the listed species or their habitat. Adverse effects to federally listed threatened and endangered species are not permitted without prior authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required by Section 7 or Section 10 under the Endangered Species Act.
9. Work shall not commence until the permittee has obtained all necessary authorizations pursuant to applicable provisions of §10 of The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; §404 of The Clean Water Act and §26a of The Tennessee Valley Authority Act, as well as any other federal, state or local laws.
10. Backfill activities must be accomplished in a manner that stabilizes the streambed and banks to prevent erosion. All contours must be returned to pre-project conditions to the extent practicable and the completed activities may not disrupt or impound stream flow.
11. The use of monofilament-type erosion control netting or blanket is prohibited.
12. This permit does not authorize impacts to cultural, historic or archaeological features or sites.
13. This permit does not authorize access to private property. Arrangements concerning the use of private property shall be made with the landowner.
14. Where practicable, all activities shall be accomplished in the dry. All surface water flowing towards this work shall be diverted using cofferdams and/or berms constructed of sandbags, clean rock (containing no fines or soils), steel sheeting, or other non-erodible, non-toxic material. All such diversion materials shall be removed upon completion of the work.

15. All activities must be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in TDEC Rule 0400-40-03. This includes, but is not limited to, the prevention of any discharge or use of materials that may be harmful to humans, terrestrial or aquatic life, or causes a condition in which visible solids, bottom deposits or turbidity impairs the designated uses of waters of the state.
16. Erosion prevention and sediment control measures must be in place and functional before any earth moving operations begin, and shall be designed according to the department's *Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook* ([www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/sed\\_ero\\_controlhandbook/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/sed_ero_controlhandbook/)). Permanent vegetative stabilization using native species of all disturbed areas in or near the stream channel must be initiated within 15 days of project completion (see also *Landscaping with Natives* at [tneppc.org](http://tneppc.org)). Non-native, non-invasive annuals may be used as cover crops until native species can be established.
17. The permittee is responsible for obtaining coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities* where clearing, grading or excavation results in an area of disturbance of one or more acres, or activities that result in the disturbance of less than one acre if it is part of a larger common plan of development or sale.
18. Stream beds shall not be used as linear transportation routes for construction equipment. Temporary stream crossings shall be limited to one point in the construction area and erosion control measures shall be utilized where stream bank vegetation is disturbed. The crossing shall be constructed so that stream or wetland flow is not obstructed. Following construction, all materials used for the temporary crossing shall be removed and disturbed stream banks shall be restored and stabilized if needed.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Tisha Calabrese Benton  
Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

7/22/15