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PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: December 09, 2025

TO: DEQ-DWR-Wetlands-Public Listserv

FROM: Stephanie Goss, Supervisor, 401 & Buffer Permitting Branch
Faith Hardin, Supervisor, Transportation Permitting Branch

RE: Pre-Construction Notification Submittal Changes

The purpose of this public notice is as described below. This notice is available electronically at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/401-wetlands-buffer-permits/401-public-notice>.

Changes to Submission Process for 401 Water Quality Certification Application

As of December 5, 2025, the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) new Regulatory Request System (RRS) became mandatory for submittal of 404 Permit applications. Therefore, DWR's Electronic Preconstruction Notification Application (ePCN) no longer automatically transfers your submittal to USACE. The Division of Water Resources is still accepting 401 Water Quality Certification application submittals via the ePCN, however applicants who use the ePCN will also have to apply for a 404 permit via the USACE RRS. The time clock for the review process will not begin until after the initial review has been done and payment is received.

Link to the new USACE RRS application: [Regulatory Request System \(RRS\)](#)

Please contact the [DWR 401 & Buffer Permitting Branch](#) or the [DWR Transportation Permitting Branch](#) with any questions.



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