



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

July 22, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District  
Attn: Amy Gibbons  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, OR 97208

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23773**, Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs,  
Cowlitz County, Washington

Dear Amy Gibbons:

On February 25, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs, Cowlitz County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies with conditions that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. **This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).**

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Jessica Hausman at (564) 669-9873. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

Loree' Randall, Section Manager  
Aquatic Permitting and Protection Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs  
WQC Order No. 23773, Aquatics ID No. 141921  
July 22, 2025  
Page 2 of 2

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 91 7199 9991 7036 9386 8987

Sent via e-mail: [Amy.C.Gibbons@usace.army.mil](mailto:Amy.C.Gibbons@usace.army.mil)

E-cc: Duncan Newberry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology  
Jessica Hausman, Ecology  
[ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov)

In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality  
Certification with Conditions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Portland District, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW  
90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District  
Attn: Amy Gibbons  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, OR 97208

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	23773
<b>Site Location</b>	Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs, located within the Columbia River, Kalama, Cowlitz County, Washington.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (USACE), submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs, Cowlitz County, Washington. The required processing dates are listed below:

- On 4/24/2023, the USACE submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On 2/25/2025, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On 6/13/2025, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.
- Ecology's "Reasonable Period of Time" for this project has been established as 8/25/2025.

This project proposes to repair 10 pile dikes, located at River Miles 68.35, 68.57, 68.79, 69.01, 69.25, 69.51, 69.79, 70.17, 71.17, and 71.51. The project also includes enhancement of existing enrockment, installation of offset pike dikes with scour aprons at five locations, and installation of seven steel marker piles.

The project site is located at Cottonwood Island, Columbia River, Cowlitz County, Washington, Sections 13, 14, 24, 25, Township 7 N., Range 2 W., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 26 – Cowlitz.

With this WQC Order, Ecology is granting with conditions USACE's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on 2/25/2025, and the following supporting documentation:

1. Updated water quality monitoring plan, received March 12, 2025.

Based on the information submitted, Ecology has determined that the discharge from the project will comply with state water quality requirements. Prior to undertaking any changes that materially alter the project, USACE must contact Ecology to determine whether a new Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize USACE to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC), or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC). Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves USACE from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

**Special Conditions:**

1. WQC Order No. **23773** will remain valid until June 30, 2028.
  - Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.
  - Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. The USACE shall implement the approved Water Quality Monitoring Plan (WQMP), *Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repair Project Water Quality Monitoring Plan, dated March 2025*. Revisions to the WQMP shall be submitted to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Jessica.Hausman@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jessica.Hausman@ecy.wa.gov) for review and approval at least 30 days prior to beginning any work covered by this WQC Order.
  - Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure that the monitoring and BMPs that are proposed by the Project Proponent and authorized by Ecology are conducted to protect water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010
3. Pile removal, handling, and disposal shall follow the EPA Region 10 Best Management Practices for Piling Removal and Placement in Washington State, dated February 18, 2016.

- Justification- Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citations- Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC
4. All excavated piles and debris that is collected shall be disposed upland in an approved disposal site.
- Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of piles and debris to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. If a barge is used to remove piles, the work surface on the barge deck shall include containment for piles and any liquid or sediment removed during pulling of the piling.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. Any work that causes distressed or dying fish or discharges of oil, fuel, or other chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office at 360-407-6300 and the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems. You will also need to notify the Washington Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990, for spills to water only. This condition is necessary to prevent oil and other hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges

and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 Chapter 173-200 WAC and Chapter 173-201A WAC, this WQC is granted with conditions to the USACE for the Cottonwood Island Pile Dike Repairs project.

### **Your right to appeal**

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

### **Address and Location Information**

#### **Filing with the PCHB**

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

#### **Service on Ecology**

**Street Address:**

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

**Mailing Address:**

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
PO Box 47608  
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

**E-Mail Address:**

[ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov)

## Americans with Disabilities Act Information

### Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Jessica Hausman  
Department of Ecology  
(564) 669-9873  
[Jessica.Hausman@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jessica.Hausman@ecy.wa.gov)

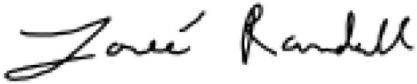
## More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**  
<https://elaho.wa.gov>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice And Procedure**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>

- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

## Signature

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2025 at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington.



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Loree' Randall, Section Manager  
Aquatic Permitting and Protection Section  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program