STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

GENERAL PERMIT NO. NCG520000

TO DISCHARGE IN-STREAM SAND MINING WASTEWATER, ASSOCIATED STORMWATER AND SIMILAR WASTEWATERS UNDER THE

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provision of North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1, other lawful standards and regulations promulgated and adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, this permit is hereby issued to all owners or operators, hereafter permittees, which are covered by this permit as evidenced by receipt of a Certificate of Coverage issued from the Environmental Management Commission to allow the discharge of wastewater and stormwater in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I, II, III and IV hereof.

Coverage under this permit is applicable to:

- Ancillary water associated with in-stream sand dredging/dragline operations and similar operations.
- Stormwater outfalls associated with in-stream sand mining. A stormwater general permit should be obtained for any separate stormwater discharges not directly related to in-stream sand mining operations.
- In-stream sand dredging/dragline operations where the permittee has obtained written authorization from the property owner to conduct permitted sand dredging activities.

This permit shall become effective **August 1, 2012.**

This permit shall expire at midnight on **July 31, 2015**.

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Original signed by Matt Matthews

for Charles Wakild, P.E., Director
Division of Water Quality
By Authority of the Environmental Management Commission

PART I

SECTION A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

During the period beginning on August 1, 2012 and lasting until expiration, the Permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall(s) numbered serially beginning with 001. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored during sand dredging operations by the Permittee as specified below:

PARAMETER	LIMITS		MONITORING REQUIREMENTS		
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type[2]	Sample Location[2]
Flow			Semi-annual	Estimate	Effluent
Turbidity[3]					

1. Effluent is defined as "runoff" from sand dredging operations and/or discharge from the retention pond (s).

2. The permittee shall make every effort to estimate the semi-annual flow requirement during times of operation (if operational during the calendar year).

3. The discharge shall not cause an instantaneous measurement of the turbidity of the receiving water to exceed:
   - 10 NTU streams, lakes and reservoirs designated as trout waters
   - 25 NTU all lakes, reservoirs and all salt waters
   - 50 NTU all other streams and surface waters

If the turbidity exceeds these levels because of background conditions, the discharge cannot cause any increase in the turbidity of the receiving water.

Reporting shall not be required except upon demand by the Division. Monitoring data will be required to be maintained on site for a period of three years.

The applicant will be required to monitor regularly for flow and those parameters limited in Section 2 above with sufficient frequency to ensure compliance with the permit conditions. Frequency, methods of sampling, and report dates will be specified in the final permit.

Sand Dredging discharges to Primary Nursery Areas (PNA) waters of the State are prohibited.

Sticks, leaves and other debris removed on shore shall not be returned to surface waters.

The permittee shall operate the facility and use sound management practices to ensure that impacts to the surface waters are minimized.

The permittee shall operate the facility and use best management practices to ensure that stream banks are stabilized, and dredging equipment must be maintained in a manner to prevent petroleum leaks and spills.

The permittee shall install warning signs, one on each side of the river, a short distance upstream of the sand dredging operation to warn canoeists and other recreational water users of the operation. The signs should include the following wording in 2 to 3 inch high white letters on a red background:

CAUTION: SAND MINING OPERATION AHEAD
CRANES, FLOATS AND/OR SUBMERGED CABLES ACROSS RIVER.
BEACHING ON OR ACCESS TO SAND DREDGING SITE IS PROHIBITED.

Visibility of the signs should be maintained as necessary. In addition, the permittee may wish to post a "No Trespassing" sign on their equipment so that it is visible when they are not operating, such as on weekends and evenings after 5:00 pm.

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

SECTION B. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

l. The permittee shall comply with Final Effluent Limitations by the effective date of the Certificate of Coverage.

2. Permittee shall at all times provide the operation and maintenance necessary to operate the existing facilities in accordance with Part II.C.2 of this permit.

SECTION C. APPLICABLITY

This permit is applicable to the following types of discharges:

1. Wastewater from in-stream sand mining operations using dredging, dragline or similar equipment. This wastewater is typically from sand piles deposited on the bank or from settling ponds.

2. Stormwater associated with the in-stream sand mining operations. This stormwater is typically runoff from sand piles or stormwater, which accumulates in the settling ponds. Stormwater outfalls that do not naturally drain to settling ponds or other mining operations should not be diverted to comingle with wastewater. If the stormwater outfalls are separate and distinct from the mining operations, a stormwater general permit should be obtained.

3. Point source discharges of wastewater from in-stream sand mining operations (typically dredging/draglines) as stated in 15A NCAC 2H .0103 (18) and any other discharge of similar characteristics as decided by the Division. Incidental stormwater associated with the sand mining activities, i.e. stormwater which comes into contact with sand piles or drains to settling ponds.

4. Discharges covered by this General permit are located at any place within the political boundary of the State of North Carolina (discharges located on the Cherokee Indian Tribal Reservation are subject to permitting by the US Environmental Protection Agency and are not covered by this General Permit).

5. All surface waters of the State of North Carolina or separate storm sewer systems conveying water to surface waters.

6. Discharge will consist of:
   - Surface or groundwater discharged from an in-stream sand mining operation (typically dredging/draglines) and similar wastewaters as decided by the Division.
   - Stormwater associated with the sand mining operation. For example, natural runoff from sand piles or entering settling ponds. Separate and distinct stormwater discharges from other parts of the mining site will be regulated under an additional stormwater general permit.

   There are no additives or pollutants discharged by this type of facility. The Division's primary concerns are suspended solids and turbidity in the receiving stream caused by the dredging action.

7. This type of facility typically has settling ponds or lagoons to lower the settleable solids and turbidity levels of the wastewater.

SECTION D. NOTICE OF INTENT

Individuals who intend to obtain coverage under this general permit, shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) applicable to this general permit. A current version of the NOI for this general permit can be obtained by contacting the NPDES Permits Unit at 919/807-6387, or can be downloaded from the internet at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq NOIs must be signed and submitted to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits Unit, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617. Applicants who have submitted a completed NOI are **not** authorized to discharge until a Certificate of Coverage is issued. In general, the NOI shall include the following information:

1. The mailing address and telephone number for the owner and/or operator.
2. The facility name, address and telephone number where the discharge will occur.
3. The permit number of any NPDES permit(s) for any discharge(s) from the site.
4. A description of the discharge, including the number of discharge points, the volume of discharge, the frequency of discharge and any treatment methods applied prior to discharge.
5. The name of the receiving waters and the stream classification (if known).
6. An analysis of non-discharge alternatives, including connection to a regional sewer collection system, subsurface disposal and spray irrigation.
7. A 7.5 minute series USGS topographic map with the discharge location clearly indicated.
8. Final plans and specifications for the treatment system and all major components (if applicable).
9. A certification that the information contained in the NOI is true, complete and accurate.