



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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For Immediate Release:  
August 19, 2009  
New Release: 09-42

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## Regional General Permits Workshop Scheduled

**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA** – Officials with the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District](#) will hold a public workshop on Sept. 1 seeking comments on several proposed Regional General Permits (RGP) for publicly-funded projects throughout Georgia. The proposed RGPs would streamline and expedite permit evaluation that would allow discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. that would have minimal impacts on wetlands and streams. Projects approved under the new proposed permits must still meet all existing goals of the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The workshop will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at The Macon Centreplex Coliseum and Convention Center, 200 Coliseum Dr., Macon, Ga., in the Monument Room. Officials will make a formal presentation at 6 p.m. and repeat it at 7:30. Participants may come-and-go any time during the workshop. Directions can be found at <http://www.maconcentreplex.com/venues/map.html>

The Corps of Engineers called the workshop in response to a large number of public comments following the initial announcement of the proposed regional permits in April. Officials have revised the proposed RGPs and this workshop gives the public a chance to review and comment on the proposals. Following a thorough review by the Corps of the original RGPs, officials tightened potential thresholds permit applicants must meet. The proposed RGPs would establish an avenue for expedited review of publically funded projects which meet the basic goals of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA), sometimes known as the Stimulus Package. The proposals would allow certain public projects to move through the permitting process more quickly while ensuring only minimal impacts to wetlands and streams. Private and commercial projects cannot use the proposed permits.

The public can read the revised Joint public notice, issued on Aug. 12 at <https://155.82.250.20/jpn/Attachments/200900170.pdf>. If issued, the RGPs would be valid only until Sept. 30, 2010, the date by which most ARRA funds must be obligated for expenditure.

“The proposed RGPs are not intended to replace, supersede or increase the scope of any existing nationwide permits,” said [Col. Edward Kertis](#), commander of the Corps of Engineers' Savannah District. “Rather the RGPs are intended to make the permitting process more efficient while retaining all environmental protections of publicly funded projects while the ARRA is in effect. It allows the Corps to potentially authorize these activities under an RGP as long as the projects have minimal environmental impacts, individually and cumulatively.”

Anyone wishing to comment on this proposed action can submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attn: [Regulatory Division](#), 100 W. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah, Ga. 31401-3640 not later than Sept. 11, 2009. Please refer to file number 200900170 when submitting comments.

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