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General Certification--Nationwide Permit # 50

Underground Coal Mining Activities

This General Certification is effective **December 18, 2025**, in conformity with the requirements of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (33 U.S.C. §1341), as well as Kentucky Statute KRS 224.16-050.

For this General Certification and all General Certifications of Nationwide Permits (NWP), the term 'surface water' is defined pursuant to 401 KAR Chapter 10, Section 1(72): Surface Waters means those waters having well-defined banks and beds, either constantly or intermittently flowing; lakes and impounded waters; marshes and wetlands; and any subterranean waters flowing in well-defined channels and having a demonstrable hydrologic connection with the surface. Lagoons used for waste treatment and effluent ditches that are situated on property owned, leased, or under valid easement by a permitted discharger are not considered to be surface waters of the Commonwealth.

As required by 40 CFR Part 121 – State Certification of Activities Requiring a Federal License or Permit, all conditions include a statement explaining why the condition is necessary to assure that any discharge authorized under the general permit will comply with water quality requirements and a citation to federal, state, or tribal law that authorizes the condition. The statements and citations are included with each condition. The statements are written entirely at the end of the certification under the section *Statements of Necessity*.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky hereby certifies under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that it has reasonable assurances that applicable water quality standards under Kentucky Administrative Regulations Title 401, Chapter 10, established pursuant to Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the CWA, will not be violated for the activity covered under NATIONWIDE PERMIT 50, namely Underground Coal Mining Activities, provided that the following conditions in this General Certification are met. Activities that do not meet the conditions of this General Certification require an Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

1. Activities occurring within surface waters assessed by the Kentucky Division of Water as designated Outstanding State Resource Waters, National Resource Waters, Cold Water Aquatic Habitat, Exceptional Waters, or identified as candidate Outstanding State Resource Waters or candidate Exceptional Waters are not



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authorized under this General Certification and require an Individual Certification. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(1), Section 1(2), & Section 1(3); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 4(2) & Section 8] These surface waters can be identified using the [401 Water Quality Certification Web Viewer](#).

2. The activity will not occur within surface waters identified as perpetually-protected compensatory mitigation sites (e.g., deed restriction or conservation easement). [Statement C and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3); and 40 C.F.R. 230.97] Protected surface waters can be identified using the [401 Water Quality Certification Web Viewer](#).
3. This activity is not authorized under this general certification if cumulative impacts will impact more than 1 acre of wetlands. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
4. Stream impacts occur in a stream with a watershed less than 480 acres in drainage above the most downstream permanent structure. For projects without permanent structures, stream impacts are limited to those with a watershed less than 480 acres in drainage above the most downstream point of disturbance. If a project affects multiple watersheds with permanent or temporary structures, the cumulative acreage among all watersheds cannot exceed 480 acres above the most downstream points of disturbance. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
5. The use of creek rock for bank stabilization; grouted rip-rap; unformed, poured grout; unformed, poured concrete; poured asphalt; or asphalt pieces is not authorized. Poured concrete or grout will be authorized under this General Certification when contained by tightly sealed forms or cells. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
6. New stormwater detention/ retention basins constructed in surface waters are not authorized under this General Certification and require an Individual Certification. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
7. Modifications to stormwater detention/ retention basins resulting in the reduction in stream reach length or that cause impairment of flow of surface waters are not authorized under this General Certification and require an Individual Certification. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]

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8. Erosion and sedimentation pollution control plans and Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be designed, installed, and maintained in effective operating condition at all times during construction activities. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
9. Sediment and erosion control measures, such as check-dams constructed of any material, silt fencing, hay bales, etc., shall not be placed within surface waters, either temporarily or permanently, without prior written approval by the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. If placement of sediment and erosion control measures in surface waters is unavoidable, design and placement of temporary erosion control measures requires written approval from the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. All sediment and erosion control devices shall be removed and the natural grade restored within the completion timeline of the activities. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
10. Measures shall be taken to prevent or control spills of fuels, lubricants, or other toxic materials used in construction from entering surface waters. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
11. Removal of riparian vegetation shall be limited to that necessary for equipment access. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
12. To the maximum extent practicable, all in-stream work under this certification shall be performed under low-flow conditions. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
13. Heavy equipment (e.g. bulldozers, backhoes, and draglines), if required for this project, should not be used or operated within the stream channel. In those instances in which such in-stream work is unavoidable, then it shall be performed in such a manner and duration as to minimize turbidity and disturbance to substrates and bank or riparian vegetation. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
14. Any fill shall be of such composition that it will not adversely affect the biological, chemical, or physical properties of the receiving waters and/or cause violations of water quality standards. If rip-rap is utilized, it should be of such weight and size that bank stress or slump conditions will not be created because of its placement. [Statements A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]

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15. If domestic water supply intakes are located downstream that may be affected by increased turbidity and suspended solids, the permittee shall notify the operator when such work will be done prior to construction. [Statement E and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
16. If this activity causes a spill, stream pollution, wetland damage, or any violation of water quality standards, you must immediately notify the Kentucky Division of Water at (800) 928-2380. [Statement A and D and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]
17. The Kentucky Department of Natural Resources may require submission of a formal application for an Individual Certification for any project that has been determined to likely have a significant adverse effect upon water quality or degrade surface waters to the extent that existing uses of the water body or downstream waters are no longer supported. [Statement A and citations KRS 224.70-110, 401 KAR 10:030, Section 1(3)(b) & Section 1(4)(b); and 401 KAR 10:031, Section 2 & Section 4]

Statements of Necessity:

- A. This condition is necessary to protect waters categorized under the anti-degradation policy to protect the designated and existing uses and to maintain the associated water quality criteria necessary to protect these water resources.
- B. This condition is necessary to protect existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses shall be assured in impaired water.
- C. This condition is necessary for long-term protection of compensatory mitigation sites.
- D. This condition is necessary to provide for the prevention, abatement, and control of all water pollution and to conserve water resources for legitimate uses, safeguard from pollution the uncontaminated waters, prevent the creation of any new pollution, and abate any existing pollution.
- E. This condition is necessary to protect domestic water supply use.
- F. This condition is necessary to evaluate, develop, and improve best-management practices in conservation plans, compliance plans, and forest stewardship management plans; establish statewide and regional agriculture water quality plans; and otherwise promote soil and water conservation activities that protect surface waters from the adverse impacts of agriculture operations within the Commonwealth.

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Violation of Kentucky state water quality standards may result in civil penalties and remediation actions.

For assistance contact the Kentucky Division of Water, Water Quality Certification Section by email (401WQC@ky.gov) or by phone (502)-564-3410.

