



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

In Reply Refer to CENAB-OP-RPA

Date October 4, 2004

Baltimore District

Incorporating PADEP BWM-GP-11 into the Pennsylvania State
Programmatic General Permit -2 (PASPGP-2)

Special Public Notice # 04-11

This Public Notice is being issued on behalf of the Baltimore, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of this 30-day notice is to request comments regarding the Corps' proposal to incorporate the new Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Bureau of Watershed Management (BWM) General Permit - 11 (BWM-GP-11), dated 7/2004, into the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit-2 (PASPGP-2). The BWM-GP-11 is attached and can also be viewed at the PADEP web page, which is located at www.dep.state.pa.us. Go to *Subjects/Permits/Authorizations/General permits*. The current PASPGP-2 document may be viewed on the Baltimore District web page, which is located at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/Permit/PASPGP-2.pdf>

The BWM-GP-11 which allows for the maintenance, testing, repair, rehabilitation or replacement of existing, currently serviceable, water obstructions or encroachments, became effective on August 10, 2004. PADEP has requested that the Corps incorporate the BWM-GP-11 into the PASPGP-2 as a Category I (non-reporting) activity. All activities included in BWM-GP-11 were previously included as covered in PASPGP-2 as either Category I, II or III activities. Due to the introduction of the BWM-GP-11, the Corps as an interim measure, is conducting a separate review of all projects to insure no more than minimal impact.

The Corps is considering the following options to allow for the BWM-GP-11 to be incorporated into the PASPGP-2:

1. To authorize all GP-11 projects through Category I of the PASPGP-2 (no Corps review).
2. To authorize some GP-11 projects through Category I (no Corps review) and some through Category III, (with Corps review).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposal. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine how to incorporate GP-11 into the PASPGP-2. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, cultural resources, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors. Comments will be used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If you have any questions or wish to submit comments regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Patricia Strong, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1715 CENAB-OP-RPA, Baltimore, Maryland 21203, or via e-mail at pat.strong@usace.army.mil.

For the District Engineer:

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