



Nor'wester Newsletter

Issue # 583 | July 18, 2016

[PNWA Website](#)

[About PNWA](#)

[Action Agenda](#)

[PNWA Events](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Corps solicits public comments for nationwide permits and proposed regional conditions

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently taking public comments for the renewal of existing nationwide permits (NWP) and the issuance of two new NWPs. Nationwide Permits allow projects with minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects to receive streamlined processing. Comments for nationwide NWPs are due August 1, 2016 and can be submitted electronically to nwp2017@usace.army.mil. More information is available on the Corps' [website](#) and in the [Federal Register](#).

In addition to the renewal of the NWPs, each regional office of the Corps is responsible for developing a list of conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are important mechanisms to ensure the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than

In This Issue

[Corps solicits public comments for nationwide permits and proposed regional conditions](#)

[Leadership changes for the Coast Guard in the Northwest](#)

[LTC Damon Delarosa assumes command of the Walla Walla District](#)

PNWA
Fact Sheets



Upcoming
Events

minimal. These Regional Conditions are also open for public comment:

Portland District:

Information can be found on the [Portland District website](#)

Comments are due by August 1st

Submit to judy.l.linton@usace.army.mil

Seattle District:

Information can be found on the [Seattle District website](#)

Comments are due by August 19th

Submit to Karen.m.urelius@usace.army.mil

Walla Walla District:

Information can be found on the [Walla Walla District website](#)

Comments are due by July 28th

Submit by mail to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Boise Regulatory Office

720 E Park Blvd Ste. 245

Boise, ID 83712

PNWA will be reviewing both the Regional Conditions and the overall NWP program and may be submitting comment. PNWA members are encouraged to share their views on nationwide permits and proposed regional conditions with [Kristin Meira](#).

Leadership changes for the Coast Guard in the Northwest

The summer has seen a series of changes for Coast Guard leadership in the Northwest. The Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard's 13th Division, Rear Admiral Richard Gromlich, retired last month after 33 years of service. His replacement is Rear Admiral Mark Butt, who most recently served as the Assistant Commandant for

Capability at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Sector Columbia River Commander Captain Dan Travers also recently retired, and was replaced by Captain William Timmons. Captain Timmons comes from the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda where he served as Chief of the Future Operations Branch.

Marine Safety Unit Portland leadership also changed with Captain Patrick Ropp retiring after 29 years of service, and handing over command of MSU Portland to Captain Thomas Griffiths.

It has been an honor to work with RADM Gromlich, Capt. Travers and Capt. Ropp and we wish them the very best in their new adventures. We look forward to working with RADM Butt, Capt. Timmons and Capt. Griffiths, and to continuing our strong partnership with the agency to help maintain the safety of our maritime community in the Northwest.

LTC Damon Delarosa assumes command of the Walla Walla District

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Vail handed over command of the Walla Walla District of the Corps of Engineers to Lieutenant Colonel Damon Delarosa on Friday, July 8th. Commanding officer of the Northwestern Division, Brigadier General Scott Spellmon, oversaw the Change of Command ceremony which took place at the Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla, WA.

LTC Delarosa recently served as a staff officer at the NATO Joint Forces Command in the Netherlands, with additional postings in Iraq and Bosnia. We very much look forward to working with LTC Delarosa and to continuing our strong partnership with the District under his command.

LTC Vail led the District for the past two years, overseeing Corps' activities in six states. PNWA recently honored him with our Distinguished Service Award, for his leadership at the District as they finalized the Programmatic Sediment Management Plan and eventually dredged the Lower Granite pool, restoring the navigation channel to its authorized depth. LTC Vail's next post is in Washington, D.C., serving on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. We look forward to continuing to work with him and wish him the best in his new assignment.

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