

Regional Categorical Permission Alteration Description – 20. Seepage and Stability Berms

The Regional Categorical Permission covers the construction, modification, and replacement of seepage and stability berms within the easement of the federal project. The total area of ground disturbance must not exceed 10 acres. The construction site should be cleared and grubbed to a sufficient depth to remove vegetation, roots, and soil-containing roots. This material must be removed from the easement area and must not be used as fill. The resulting ground surface in the area(s) where the berm is to be located should be scarified to a depth of at least 6 inches or the full depth of shrinkage cracks, whichever is deeper. If soft or yielding soils are encountered during subgrade preparation, they should be scarified, moisture-conditioned, and compacted or removed by excavation to expose firm, competent soil.

Berms must be constructed of material that is as permeable as, or more permeable than, the adjacent existing ground and designed in accordance with USACE standards. Seepage and stability berms may be drained or undrained. Both berm types must be constructed at a 2 percent minimum slope to drain surface water away from the berm and the levee.

Proper maintenance of berms is necessary to ensure continued competency of the berm and associated levee. For example, after each high-water event, berms must be inspected for cracks, depressions, settlement, and other problems in need of repair. The design grade of the berm must be maintained to ensure proper drainage and seepage/stability control. Visibility of and accessibility to the berm must be ensured by maintaining grass and other vegetation at a height of 12 inches or less. Removal of material from the berm (e.g., by agricultural activities) that may reduce the berm's ability to function as designed is prohibited. Nearby vegetation should be regularly controlled (e.g., trees with roots that may interfere with a berm's function and blown over trees can remove a section of the berm). Filter layers, when present, must be retained intact during repairs.

Regional Categorical Permission Alteration Checklist – 20. Seepage and Stability Berms

Note: The following checklist is intended for planning purposes only, and includes information that USACE reviewers look for when considering a Section 408 request for seepage and stability berms under the Regional Categorical Permission. To be reviewed under the Regional Categorical Permission, the proposed project must adhere to all requirements of the Regional Categorical Permission, including the full alteration description (see previous page). The plans and narrative project description should reflect this information.

1.	<input type="checkbox"/> New Installation	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement	<input type="checkbox"/> Modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorize Existing
2.	Maximum total area of disturbance is 10 acres: <input type="checkbox"/> Reference: [Click to enter document source. Example – plan sheet (p. 4), specs, report.] Comment: [Click to enter rationale, explanation, unique situation, etc.]			
3.	Any material cleared or grubbed from the area will be removed from the federal project easement and will not be used as fill: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Reference: [Click to enter document source. Example – plan sheet (p. 4), specs, report.] Comment: [Click to enter rationale, explanation, unique situation, etc.]			
4.	Berms will be constructed of material that is as permeable as, or more permeable, than the adjacent existing ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Reference: [Click to enter document source. Example – plan sheet (p. 4), specs, report.] Comment: [Click to enter rationale, explanation, unique situation, etc.]			
5.	Berms are designed in accordance with USACE standards: <input type="checkbox"/> Reference: [Click to enter document source. Example – plan sheet (p. 4), specs, report.] Comment: [Click to enter rationale, explanation, unique situation, etc.]			
6.	Berms will be constructed at a 2% minimum slope to drain surface water away from the berm and the levee: <input type="checkbox"/> Reference: [Click to enter document source. Example – plan sheet (p. 4), specs, report.] Comment: [Click to enter rationale, explanation, unique situation, etc.]			

– For Official Use Only below this line –

[*Comment*]

RCP Eligibility Review

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Add'l. Info Requested</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Reviewer: _____	Date: <small>Click date</small> _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering Reviewer: _____	Date: <small>Click date</small> _____