

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE, that the Commission on Environmental Quality (“Commission”) is considering the adoption of the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality State Water Alteration Program Regulations, to be codified at 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6 Ch. 1. These regulations are proposed pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 49-2-9(1) and 49-17-25 (Rev. 2012), and the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law, Miss. Code Ann. § 25-43-1 *et seq.* (Rev. 2010). The Commission now seeks public comment on the proposed regulations and announces a public hearing regarding the proposed revisions.

I. Substance of the Proposed Regulations.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 49-17-29, persons who cause pollution of any waters of the State or place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location likely to cause pollution of any waters of the State must obtain a permit or qualify for a permit exemption. This regulation is proposed to provide clarity and consistency to the existing definition of waters of the State and to establish permit exemptions for permanent or temporary alterations to waters of the State for activities such as agriculture and silviculture; ditch maintenance; ditch reshaping; activities addressed under a Section 401 Water Quality Certification; emergency response; linear transportation; utility line; and residential, commercial, and institutional development.

II. Manner by which the public may comment.

Any interested party may submit comments regarding these proposed regulations by submitting the comments in writing to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Attention: Waters of the State, MDEQ, P.O. Box 2261, Jackson, MS 39225. Written comments should be delivered to the Department of Environmental Quality by the end of business on April 17, 2025.

Members of the public may also present verbal or written comments at the public hearing described below. A copy of the proposed regulations may be reviewed on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality’s website at mdeq.ms.gov/WOTS/ or may be requested at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, by telephone at 601-961-5171, or by e-mail at WOTS@mdeq.ms.gov.

III. Notice of Public Hearing.

A public hearing regarding the proposed regulations will be conducted on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room of the Department of Environmental Quality, 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. The public is invited to attend to present verbal or written comments on the proposed regulations.

IV. Additional Information.

For additional information, please contact the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality by telephone at 601-961-5171, or by e-mail at WOTS@mdeq.ms.gov.