



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Michael R. Pence
Governor

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

December 12, 2014

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL 91 7190 0005 2710 0036 9499

Ms. Lee Anne Devine
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Ms. Devine:

Re: Section 401 Water Quality Certification
Project: 2014 Reissuance of Regional
General Permit No. 1 for Indiana

The Office of Water Quality has reviewed the Joint Public Notice/Application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) dated September 11, 2014. According to the application, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to reissue the Regional General Permit No. 1 (RGP #1) for the state of Indiana. The RGP #1 is intended to authorize categories of activities that are similar in nature and cause minimal individual and cumulative impacts to the aquatic environment.

The Louisville, Detroit, and Chicago Districts of the USACE developed the existing Indiana RGP to replace several Nationwide Permits (NWP). As a consequence of this action, the following NWPs have been suspended and will not be in effect for the state of Indiana. The USACE proposes to suspend the following:

- NWP 13 Bank Stabilization
- NWP 14 Linear Transportation Projects
- NWP 18 Minor Discharges
- NWP 29 Residential Developments
- NWP 36 Boat Ramps
- NWP 39 Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 Agricultural Activities
- NWP 41 Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- NWP 42 Recreational Facilities
- NWP 43 Storm Water Management Facilities
- NWP 44 Mining Activities

Since these NWPs are suspended in Indiana, no Section 401 WQC decision is required.



Based on available information, it is the judgment of this office that the RGP #1 will comply with the applicable provisions of 327 IAC 2 and Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act if the recipient of the certification complies with the conditions set forth below. Therefore, subject to the following terms and conditions, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) hereby grants Section 401 WQC for the RGP #1. Any changes in the language or scope of the RGP #1 not detailed in the Joint Public Notice/Application, or as modified by the conditions below, are not authorized by this certification.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- (1) An applicant seeking coverage under this Section 401 WQC must:
 - (a) Demonstrate, via letter from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Nature Preserves, that no state endangered, threatened, or rare species are documented on a permanent or seasonal basis within ½-mile radius of the proposed project site by the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, or provide documentation from the IDNR that states that the activities proposed will not constitute a violation of state laws protecting these species.
 - (b) Submit a complete Section 401 WQC Regional General Permit Notification Form (most current State Form 51937) at least 30 days prior to the activity. The notification must at a minimum provide applicant information, project location, existing project site conditions, project impacts, and a proposed plan. Failure to submit all required information will result in the project being considered out-of-scope and not authorized.
 - (c) Provide any additional information required by the IDEM to verify that a given project will qualify under the terms and conditions of this Section 401 WQC. If the applicant fails to provide any requested information, the project is not authorized.
 - (d) Allow the commissioner or an authorized representative of the commissioner (including an authorized contractor), upon the presentation of credentials, to enter upon the applicant's property to inspect the project site during the review of a proposed project.
 - (e) Notify IDEM of any project for which the USACE District Engineer has issued a waiver for the linear feet of stream impact in order to authorize the project under the RGP. IDEM will review the notification within 30 days to determine whether or not IDEM will also waive the linear feet of stream impact limit.

PERMITEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Permittees qualifying for impacts under this Section 401 WQC must:
 - (a) Allow the commissioner or an authorized representative of the commissioner (including an authorized contractor), upon the presentation of credentials to:

1. Enter upon the permittee's property.
 2. Access and copy at reasonable times any records that must be kept under the conditions of this certification.
 3. Inspect, at reasonable times, any monitoring or operational equipment or method; collection, treatment, pollution management or discharge facility or device; practices required by this certification; and any mitigation wetland site.
 4. Sample or monitor any discharge of pollutants or any mitigation site.
- (b) Obtain any other permits or authorizations required for this project or related activities from IDEM or any other local, state, or federal agency or person. Land disturbing activities of one (1) acre or more or disturbances of less than an acre that are part of a larger common plan will require permit coverage for discharges associated with construction site run-off. Additional information should be obtained through the IDEM Storm Water Program at 317-233-1864. In addition, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (317-232-4160 or toll free at 877-928-3755) should be contacted concerning the possible requirement of natural freshwater lake or floodway permits.
- (c) Deposit any dredged material in a contained upland disposal area and implement appropriate measures to prevent sediment run-off to any waterbody.
- (d) Install run-off and sediment control measures prior to any land disturbance to manage storm water and to minimize sediment from leaving the project site or entering a waterbody. All operations must phase project activities to minimize the impact of sediment to the receiving waterbody(ies). Erosion and sediment control measures shall be implemented using an appropriate order of construction (sequencing) relative to the land disturbing activities. Wetlands and/or water bodies that are adjacent to land disturbing activities must be protected with appropriate sediment control measures. As work progresses, all areas void of protective cover shall be re-vegetated or stabilized as described in the plan. Areas that are to be re-vegetated must utilize mulch that is anchored or, under more severe conditions, the erosion control blankets. Erosion control blankets or other armament shall be used for all areas associated with concentrated flow. Standards and specifications for storm water management, including erosion and sediment control can be obtained in the Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual or similar guidance documents.

TERMS OF THIS SECTION 401 WQC:

- (1) IDEM, for any project that qualifies under the terms and conditions of this certification, may choose to require an individual Section 401 WQC if the agency determines that the project would have more than minimal impacts to water quality, either viewed individually or collectively with other projects that may impact the same waterbody affected by the proposed project.
- (2) IDEM retains the right to review, modify, terminate, replace or amend this certification as needed to ensure that the federal permits or licenses certified do not result in violations of Indiana's Water Quality Standards or other applicable state laws. In the absence of another action by IDEM that would alter the termination

date of this certification, this certification shall expire with the expiration of the federal permit it certifies.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF THIS SECTION 401 WQC

- (1) This Section 401 WQC does not :
 - (a) Convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privileges.
 - (b) Preempt any duty to obtain federal, state or local permits or authorizations required by law for the execution of the project or related activities.

- (2) This Section 401 WQC does not authorize:
 - (a) Impacts or activities that do not meet the terms and conditions of this Section 401 WQC. Such activities require an individual Section 401 WQC from the IDEM.
 - (b) Any injury to permittees or private property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations.
 - (c) Changes to the original plan design detailed in the notification.
 - (d) The discharge of pollutants, principally sediment, associated with storm water run-off.
 - (e) Point source discharges of pollutants other than clean fill¹ and uncontaminated dredged material.
 - (f) Activities on or in any of the State's waters that have been designated as salmonid waters (cold water streams), tributaries of salmonid waters within a two river mile reach upstream from the confluence with the salmonid water, or Outstanding State and/or National Resource waters (see Attachment #1).
 - (g) Activities on or in any critical wetland or critical special aquatic sites (see Attachment #2).
 - (h) Activities associated with the establishment of a mitigation bank.

- (3) This Section 401 WQC authorizes:
 - (a) Activities that will permanently impact one-tenth (0.10) of an acre or less of waters of the U.S.
 - (b) Activities that will have a cumulative permanent impact of 300 linear feet or less of waters of the U.S.
 - (c) Activities that will not permanently change the sinuosity, flow path, velocity, cross-sectional area under the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), or the slope of a stream² except as specified in Conditions (3)(d), (3)(g), and (3)(i).

¹ Clean fill, for purposes of this WQC, means uncontaminated rocks, bricks, concrete without rebar, road demolition waste materials other than asphalt, or earthen material.

² Stream, for the purposes of this WQC, means waters of the U.S. that have a defined bed and bank and convey water ephemeral, intermittently or perennially. This term includes natural streams, relocated streams, channelized streams, artificial channels, encapsulated channels and ditches.

- (d) Minimal changes to stream morphology, including minor relocations, which result in a net benefit to the aquatic ecosystem. Stream relocations may be authorized, provided the activity:
 - 1. Is associated with the installation of a stream crossing or replacement of an existing crossing, and results in a net benefit to the stream morphology.
 - 2. Does not reduce the cross-sectional area under the OHWM.
 - 3. Is accompanied by an acceptable restoration/stabilization plan.
 - 4. Does not accelerate stream instability. Examples of instability include, but are not limited to, stream bank erosion, channel enlargement, channel incision, degradation, aggradation, meander migration (down-valley and lateral accretion), avulsion and base-level shifts.
- (e) Stream bank stabilization activities or new lake and reservoir shoreline stabilization that will permanently affect 300 linear feet or less and the applicant demonstrates that the bank or shoreline in question is unstable. Natural shoreline stabilization methods are required where there is no pre-existing seawall or other shoreline hard armament on a lake or reservoir. Natural shoreline stabilization methods include bank stabilization practices that benefit the aquatic environment by incorporating organic materials to produce functional structures, provide wildlife habitat, and provide areas for revegetation.
- (f) Placement of riprap or other bank stabilization materials provided the design and installation is flush with the upstream and downstream bank and stream channel/lake bed elevations and grades.
- (g) New bridge piers, piles, shafts or other support structures and their associated scour protection measures that do not significantly reduce the cross-sectional area of the stream and are located below the OHWM and outside the low flow channel of the stream.
- (h) Activities that do not result in a permanent secondary effect to waters of the U.S. Potential secondary effects include, but are not limited to damming, loss of hydrology, and creation of in-channel ponds.
- (i) New permanent stream encapsulations that are for the purpose of constructing a crossing must:
 - 1. Allow the passage of aquatic organisms in the waterbody.
 - 2. Not exceed 150 cumulative linear feet of encapsulation.
 - 3. Have a cross-sectional area at least twenty percent (20%) larger than the area under the OHWM of the stream immediately upstream and downstream of the encapsulation in the form of a single opening.
 - 4. Have a streambed slope within the encapsulation that matches the slope of the bed both immediately upstream and downstream.
 - 5. Not create or accelerate stream instability. Examples of stream instability include, but are not limited to head cutting, stream bank erosion, channel enlargement, channel incision, degradation, aggradation, meander migration, (down-valley and lateral accretion), avulsion and base-level shifts.

6. Either have no bottom (e.g., three sided culvert) or are embedded (sumped)³ into the stream channel based on the following structure sizes and substrate types:
 - a. Stream bed of sand
 - Structure < four (4) feet wide: Six (6) inch sump
 - Structure four (4) feet wide to 12 feet wide: 12 inch sump
 - Structure 12 feet to 20 feet wide: 18 inch sump
 - b. Stream bed of other soil or unconsolidated till⁴
 - Structure < four (4) feet wide: Three (3) inch sump
 - Structure four (4) feet wide to 12 feet wide: Six (6) inch sump
 - Structure 12 feet to 20 feet wide: 12 inch sump
 - c. Stream bed of bedrock or consolidated till⁵
 - Inside elevation of the structure bottom shall be a minimum of three (3) inches below the surface of the bedrock or consolidated till
7. Meet the following requirements when installed in perennial streams with OHWM width of 12 feet or greater. These encapsulations must:
 - a. Be sumped to a greater depth if needed for the design of the streambed inside the encapsulation.
 - b. Have a width equal to or wider than the existing OHWM.
 - c. Have a natural stream bottom. If the stream bottom will be disturbed during construction (e.g. four sided box culverts or pipe culverts or because of footer work for three sided culverts), natural stream substrate must be placed in the encapsulation in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 26: Culvert Design for Aquatic Organism Passage.
 - d. Have a low flow channel constructed or restored through the encapsulation. The low flow channel shall have the same width, depth, and side slope as the natural upstream and downstream low flow channel. If the upstream and downstream channels are highly degraded a V-shaped channel with 5:1 slopes within the structure may be substituted.
- (j) Stream pump-around activities, provided:
 1. The discharge from the activity does not cause erosion at the outlet.
 2. Cofferdam dewatering activities are directed to a filter bag(s), upland sediment basins/traps, or a combination of other appropriate sediment control measures to minimize the discharge of sediment-laden water into waters of the U.S.
 3. All sediment control measures are installed and maintained in good working order.
 4. Any materials used for an in-stream dam are constructed using non erodible materials. Examples include sand bags and sheet pile walls.

³ Sump, for the purpose of this Water Quality Certification, means the inside elevation of the bottom of the structure is placed at a specified depth below the grade of the stream.

⁴ Other soil and unconsolidated till includes substrates that are more cohesive and less mobile (e.g. clay, silt, gravel, and cobble substrates).

⁵ Consolidated till includes dense hard materials such as hardpan.

- (k) The installation of temporary work causeways when the activity is conducted in a manner that maintains near normal downstream flows and is constructed of material that can be expected to withstand high flow events.
- (l) The use of temporary structures provided the structures are removed in their entirety and the stream channel restored to preconstruction grades, contours, and vegetative conditions.
- (m) Multiple impacts on a project as long as the cumulative amount of those impacts are less than the most restrictive thresholds of this Section 401 WQC.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification may result in an enforcement action. If an enforcement action is pursued, civil penalties could be assessed up to \$25,000 per day. Criminal liability may apply if it is determined that the Section 401 Water Quality Certification was violated willfully or negligently.

This certification is effective eighteen (18) days from the mailing of this notice unless a petition for review and a petition for stay of effectiveness are filed within this 18-day period. If a petition for review and a petition for stay of effectiveness are filed within this period, any part of the certification within the scope of the petition for stay is stayed for fifteen (15) days, unless or until an Environmental Law Judge further stays the certification in whole or in part.

This decision may be appealed in accordance with IC 4-21.5, the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act. The steps that must be followed to qualify for review are:

- (1) You must petition for review in writing that states facts demonstrating that you are either the person to whom this decision is directed, a person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the decision, or a person entitled to review under any law.
- (2) You must file the petition for review with the Office of Environmental Adjudication (OEA) at the following address:

Office of Environmental Adjudication
100 North Senate Avenue
IGCN Room N501
Indianapolis, IN 46204

- (3) You must file the petition within eighteen (18) days of the mailing date of this decision. If the eighteenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or other day that the OEA offices are closed during regular business hours, you may file the petition the next day that the OEA offices are open during regular business hours. The petition is deemed filed on the earliest of the following dates: the date it is personally delivered to OEA; the date that the envelope containing the petition is postmarked if it is mailed by United States mail; or, the date it is shown to have been deposited with a private carrier on the private carrier's receipt, if sent by private carrier.

Identifying the certification, decision, or other order for which you seek review by number, name of the applicant, location, or date of this notice will expedite review of the petition.

Note that if a petition for review is granted pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-7, the petitioner will, and any other person may, obtain notice of any prehearing conferences, preliminary hearings, hearings, stays, and any orders disposing of the proceedings by requesting copies of such notices from OEA.

If you have procedural questions regarding filing a petition for review you may contact the Office of Environmental Adjudication at 317-232-8591.

If you have any questions about this certification, please contact Jason Randolph, Project Manager, of my staff by phone at 317-233-0467, or by e-mail at jrandolp@idem.in.gov.

Sincerely,



Martha Clark Mettler
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of Water Quality

cc: Norma Condra, USACE-Louisville
Kerrie Kuhne, USACE-Detroit
Paul Leffler, USACE-Chicago
Scott Pruitt, USFWS
Matt Buffington, IDNR
Randy Braun, IDEM

Attachment 1: Indiana Waters Designated for Special Protection

Designated Salmonid Waters: [327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3)]

- Trail Creek and its tributaries downstream to Lake Michigan, LaPorte County
- East Branch of the Little Calumet River and its tributaries downstream to Lake Michigan via Burns Ditch, Porter and LaPorte Counties
- Salt Creek above (upstream of) its confluence with the Little Calumet River, Porter County
- Kintzele Ditch (Black Ditch) from Beverly Drive downstream to Lake Michigan, Porter County
- The Galena River and its tributaries, LaPorte County
- The St. Joseph River and its tributaries in St. Joseph County from the Twin Branch Dam in Mishawaka downstream to the Indiana/Michigan state line, St. Joseph County
- The Indiana portion of the open waters of Lake Michigan
- Those waters designated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for put-and-take trout fishing⁶

Waterbodies which have been designated all or partially as Outstanding State Resource Waters: [327 IAC 2-1.3-3 and 327 IAC 2-1.5-19(b)]

- The Blue River in Washington, Crawford, and Harrison Counties, from river mile 57.0 to river mile 11.5
- The North Fork of Wildcat Creek in Carroll and Tippecanoe Counties, from river mile 43.11 to river mile 4.82
- The South Fork of Wildcat Creek in Tippecanoe County, from river mile 10.21 to river mile 0.00
- Cedar Creek in Allen and DeKalb counties, from river mile 13.7 to its confluence with the St. Joseph River
- The Indiana portion of the open waters of Lake Michigan
- All waters incorporated in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Waterbodies which have been designated all or partially as Exceptional Use Streams⁷: [listed in: 327 IAC 2-1-11(b) and IC 13-11-2-72.5 (before its repeal)]

- Big Pine Creek in Warren County downstream of the State Road 55 bridge near the town of Pine Village to its confluence with the Wabash River
- Mud Pine Creek in Warren County from the bridge on the County Road between Brisco and Rainsville to its confluence with Big Pine Creek
- Fall Creek in Warren County from the old C.R. 119 bridge in the NW quarter of Section 21, Township 22N, Range 8W downstream to its confluence with Big Pine Creek
- Indian Creek in Montgomery County from the County Road 650 West bridge downstream to its confluence with Sugar Creek
- Clifty Creek in Montgomery County within the boundaries of Pine Hills Nature Preserve
- Bear Creek in Fountain County from the bridge on County Road 450 North to its confluence with the Wabash River

⁶ Available on the internet under trout stocking locations at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3622.htm>.

⁷ As per IC 13-18-3-2(u): "Each exceptional use water (as defined in IC 13-11-2-72.5, before its repeal) designated by the board before June 1, 2009, becomes an outstanding state resource water on June 1, 2009, by operation of law."

- Rattlesnake Creek in Fountain County from the bridge on County Road 450 North to its confluence with Bear Creek
- The small tributary to Bear Creek in Fountain County within the Portland Arch Nature Preserve which enters Bear Creek at the sharpest bend and has formed the small natural bridge called Portland Arch
- Blue River from the confluence of the West and Middle Forks of the Blue River in Washington County downstream to its confluence with the Ohio River
- The South Fork of Blue River in Washington County from the Horner's Chapel Road bridge downstream to its confluence with Blue River.
- Lost River and all surface and underground tributaries upstream from the Orangeville Rise (T2N, R1W, Section 6) and the Rise of Lost River (T2N, R1W, Section 7) and the mainstem of the Lost River from the Orangeville Rise downstream to its confluence with the East Fork of White River.

Attachment 2: Critical Wetlands and Critical Special Aquatic Sites

In the interest of maintaining consistency with the State Regulated (Isolated) Wetland program established at 327 IAC 17, IDEM defines Critical Wetlands and Critical Special Aquatic Sites to be synonymous with Rare and Ecologically Important Wetland Types under 327 IAC 17-1-3(3)(B):

- **Acid bog:** Acid bog is an acidic wetland of kettle holes in glacial terrain. Bogs can be graminoid (*Carex* spp. and *Sphagnum* spp.) or low shrub (*Chamaedaphne calyculata* and *Betula pumila*). The graminoid bog can be a floating, quaking mat. The soils in acid bogs are saturated and acidic peat. Bogs have non-flowing or very slow flowing water. The water level fluctuates seasonally. When a sphagnum mat floats, it rises and falls with the water table. Acid bogs can be found in northern Indiana.
- **Acid seep:** Acid seep is a bog-like wetland typically found in unglaciated hill regions. This community is a small groundwater-fed wetland located primarily in upland terrain. A thin layer of muck may lie over a mineral substrate. The soil reaction is acid. This seep community is characterized by flowing water during at least part of the year. Acid seeps are located primarily in southern Indiana.
- **Circumneutral bog:** Circumneutral bog is a bog-like wetland that receives groundwater. Circumneutral bogs can be a mosaic of tall shrub bog, graminoid bog, and other communities. The graminoid bog often occurs on a quaking or floating mat. Although a few bogs occur in unglaciated regions, most are found in glacial ice-block depressions. The soils in circumneutral bogs are usually peat, or other low nutrient organic substrates, which are saturated and circumneutral to slightly acid. Circumneutral bogs have non-flowing or very slow flowing water. The water level fluctuates seasonally. Circumneutral bogs are usually found in northern Indiana.
- **Circumneutral seep:** The circumneutral seep (or seep-spring) is a groundwater-fed wetland on organic soil. It is primarily herbaceous. Species typically include marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) with a scattered tree canopy. Circumneutral seep is typically situated on or near the base of a slope. The soil is typically circumneutral muck. This seep community is characterized by slowly flowing water during at least part of the year. Circumneutral seeps can be found scattered throughout Indiana.
- **Cypress swamp:** Bald cypress swamps are seasonally to permanently inundated wetlands found in depressions and sloughs of large bottomlands associated with the Wabash/Ohio River system. Poorly to very poorly drained soils characterize this environment. Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is present, and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*) are also usually present. This community is restricted to extreme southwest Indiana.
- **Dune and swale:** Dune and swale is an ecological system consisting of a mixture of upland (black oak sand savanna, dry to mesic sand prairie) and wetland (pond, panne, sedge meadow, marsh, wet prairie) natural communities. These communities occur in long, narrow, linear complexes, with the dry communities occupying sand ridges, and the wet communities occurring in the intervening swales. Black oak (*Quercus velutina*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), and prairie vegetation typically occur on the ridges, and sedges, reeds, and marsh/aquatic vegetation line are found in the swales. Water levels are directly influenced by ground water, with the interdunal swales controlled largely by lateral flow through porous beach ridges. Dune and swale is restricted to extreme northwest Indiana, near Lake Michigan.

- **Fen:** Fen is a calcareous, groundwater-fed wetland. Fens are often a mosaic of grassy areas, sedge areas, graminoid-shrubby cinquefoil, and tall shrub areas. The extent of the tall shrub component of fens may be determined by fire frequency and/or soil moisture. Drying of the soil increases the growth of shrubs. Fens typically occur in the vicinity of glacial moraines. Fens typically have a muck or peat substrate. The water level fluctuates seasonally and is fed by groundwater. Fens can be found in central and northern Indiana.
- **Forested fen:** Forested fen is a tree-dominated wetland on organic soil which receives groundwater. Forested fens are often a mosaic of treed areas, tall shrub areas, and herbaceous areas. A tall shrub layer is often well developed in forested fens. Indicative species typically include tamarack (*Larix laricina*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Forested fens occur in wet lowlands, where moraines meet outwash features or depressions. Forested fens have saturated, poorly to very poorly drained soils that are often muck, but some seasonal flooding can occur in forested fens that are especially level. This community is a late successional stage of fen or circumneutral bog. Forested fens occur in northern Indiana.
- **Forested swamp:** Forested swamp is a seasonally inundated to intermittently exposed wetland of large river bottoms. Forested swamps do not receive direct flow from river flooding except under exceptional circumstances. Forested swamps occur in depressions, sloughs and large bottomlands, typically dominated by tree species such as swamp cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*). In northern Indiana important tree species include black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Poorly to very poorly drained and aerated soils characterize the swamp environment. Soils usually are mineral not muck or peat. This community type is found throughout Indiana.
- **Marl beach:** Marl beach is a fen-like community located on the marly muck shorelines of lakes. Marl precipitate is evident. A thin layer of water is present in spring, but dries down in summer. Draw-down of a lake creates additional area for this community to develop on. Marl beaches can be found in extreme northern Indiana, primarily in the northeast.
- **Muck flat:** Muck flat is a shoreline and lake community possessing a unique flora of sedges and annual plants, many of which are also found on the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. This community is found at the margins of lakes or covering shallow basins. This community has a peat substrate. The muck flats can float on the water surface, but during high water periods are usually inundated. The water level of a basin fluctuates during a season or from year to year in response to the amount of precipitation. This exposes bare substrate needed for germination by species of the community. Muck flats are found in northern Indiana.
- **Panne:** Panne is a groundwater fed herbaceous wetland occupying interdunal swales near Lake Michigan. Pannes are located on the lee side of the first or second line of dunes from the lakeshore. The soil is wet, calcareous sand. Pannes are located in counties bordering Lake Michigan.
- **Sand flat:** Sand flat is a shoreline and lake community possessing a unique flora of sedges and annual plants, many of which are also found on the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. This community is found at the margins of lakes or covering shallow basins. This community has a sand substrate. During high water periods sand flats at the margins of lakes or ponds are inundated. The water level of a basin fluctuates during a season or from year to year in response to the amount of precipitation. This exposes bare substrate needed for germination by species of the community. Sand flats occur in northern Indiana, and in the Plainville Sand Section of southwest Indiana.

- **Sedge meadow:** Sedge meadow is an herbaceous wetland typically dominated by graminoid species such as flat sedge (*Cyperus* spp.), spike rush (*Eleocharis* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Sedge meadow is an herbaceous wetland of stream margins and river floodplains, and lake margins or upland depressions. Streamside sedge meadows are frequently flooded in the spring and early summer. Sedge meadows of lake margins and depressions often contain standing water during wet months and after heavy rains; during dry periods, the water level is at or just below the substrate. Sedge meadow usually occupies the ground between a marsh and the uplands, or a shrub swamp or wet forest. Periodic high water can kill trees and shrubs invading sedge meadows. Sedge meadows can be found in the northern half of the state.
- **Shrub swamp:** Shrub swamp is a shrub-dominated wetland that is seasonally inundated to intermittently exposed. This community occurs in depressions and the substrate in either mineral soils or muck, as opposed to peat which is characteristic of bogs. Shrub swamp is characterized by non-flowing or very slowly flowing water with levels that fluctuate seasonally. Shrub swamps are persistent, though considered successional. Two opportunistic native shrubs, sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) and gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), by themselves, are not indicative of shrub swamps. This community type is found throughout Indiana.
- **Sinkhole pond:** Sinkhole ponds are water-containing depressions in karst topography. Sinkhole ponds are found in the Mitchell Karst Plain in south-central Indiana.
- **Sinkhole swamp:** Sinkhole swamps are depressions in karst topography dominated by tree or shrub species. Sinkhole swamps are found in the Mitchell Karst Plain in south-central Indiana.
- **Wet floodplain forest:** Wet floodplain forest is a broadleaf deciduous forest of river floodplains. Wet floodplain forests occur in depressions and flats on narrow to wide floodplains and also on recently exposed substrates that are frequently flooded. Wet floodplain forests are frequently flooded and may have standing water seasonally to permanently present. Wet floodplain forests occur statewide.
- **Wet prairie:** Wet prairie is an herbaceous wetland typically dominated by graminoid species such as prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Vegetation height is often 2-3 m. The species diversity of wet prairies is lower than that of mesic prairies. Wet prairies occur in deep swales and the substrate ranges from very deep black mineral soils (which are high in organic matter) to muck. Ponding in spring lasts for several weeks prior to drainage. Wet prairies commonly occur in the Grand Prairie Natural Region, the Tipton Till Plain and the Bluffton Till Plain, with a few examples found in the Northern Lakes Natural Region.
- **Wet sand prairie:** Wet sand prairie is an herbaceous wetland typically dominated by graminoid species such as prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Vegetation height is often 2-3 m. The species diversity of wet prairies is lower than that of mesic prairies. Wet lowland prairies occur in deep swales and the substrate is sand, sometimes mixed with muck. Flooding is a regular springtime occurrence in wet sand prairie and may last several weeks. This community occurs in a mosaic with marsh and other wetlands, and with upland prairies and sand savannas. Fire was frequent occurrence, but more common in the fall when waters had receded. This community occurs in northwest Indiana and in the Plainville Sands area.

