



Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality  
Waterways Section

**Publication Date:**  
February 24, 2026

**IDEM Permit Number:**  
WQC001433

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Closing Date:**  
March 24, 2026

**Corps of Engineers ID Number:**  
N/A

### To all interested parties:

This letter shall serve as a formal notice of the receipt of an application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The purpose of the notice is to inform the public of active applications submitted for water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) and to solicit comments and information on any impacts to water quality related to the proposed project. IDEM will evaluate whether the project complies with Indiana's water quality standards as set forth at 327 IAC 2.

- 1. Applicant:** Brian Catt  
Duke Energy  
1000 E Main St  
Plainfield, IN, 46168-1765
- 2. Agent:** Aaron Seymour  
GAI Consultants  
9998 Crosspoint Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN, 46256-3307
- 3. Project location:** 21942 Overdorf Rd, Noblesville, IN, 46062-8825  
West Terminus: 40.10577 -85.98495  
East Terminus: 40.10590 -85.97951
- 4. Affected waterbodies:** Approximately 0.64 acres of emergent wetlands and 0.03 acres of forested wetlands regulated under CWA Section 404/401 will be temporarily impacted in order to complete required activities.
- 5. Project Description:** The Project involves work associated with 8 damaged/deficient transmission line structures within existing Duke Energy ROW and is necessary to maintain the safety and integrity of the transmission line. Work includes the removal of 5 wood poles and replacement with direct embed hybrid steel/concrete structures, the removal of 2 wood poles and replacement with direct embed steel structures, and the full removal of one wood pole. Construction matting is to be installed to establish access routes and work areas within wetlands. For additional information visit the Regulatory ePortal at:  
<https://stormwater.idem.in.gov/nsite/default/map/help>

**Comment period:** Any person or entity who wishes to submit comments or information relevant to the aforementioned project may do so by the closing date noted above. Only comments or information related to water quality or potential impacts of the project on water quality can be considered by IDEM in the water quality certification review process.

**Public Hearing:** Any person may submit a written request that a public hearing be held to consider issues related to water quality in connection with the project detailed in this notice. The request for a hearing should be submitted within the comment period to be considered timely. The request should also state the reason for the public hearing as specifically as possible to assist IDEM in determining whether a public hearing is warranted.

**Questions?** Additional information may be obtained by contacting [WaterwaysComments@idem.IN.gov](mailto:WaterwaysComments@idem.IN.gov). In the subject line of the email, please include the IDEM ID Number listed in the top right corner of the first page of this public notice. Indicate if you wish to receive a copy of IDEM's final decision. Written comments and inquiries may be forwarded to -

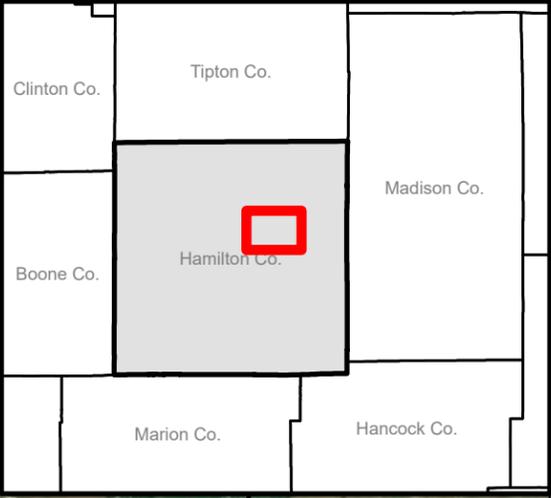
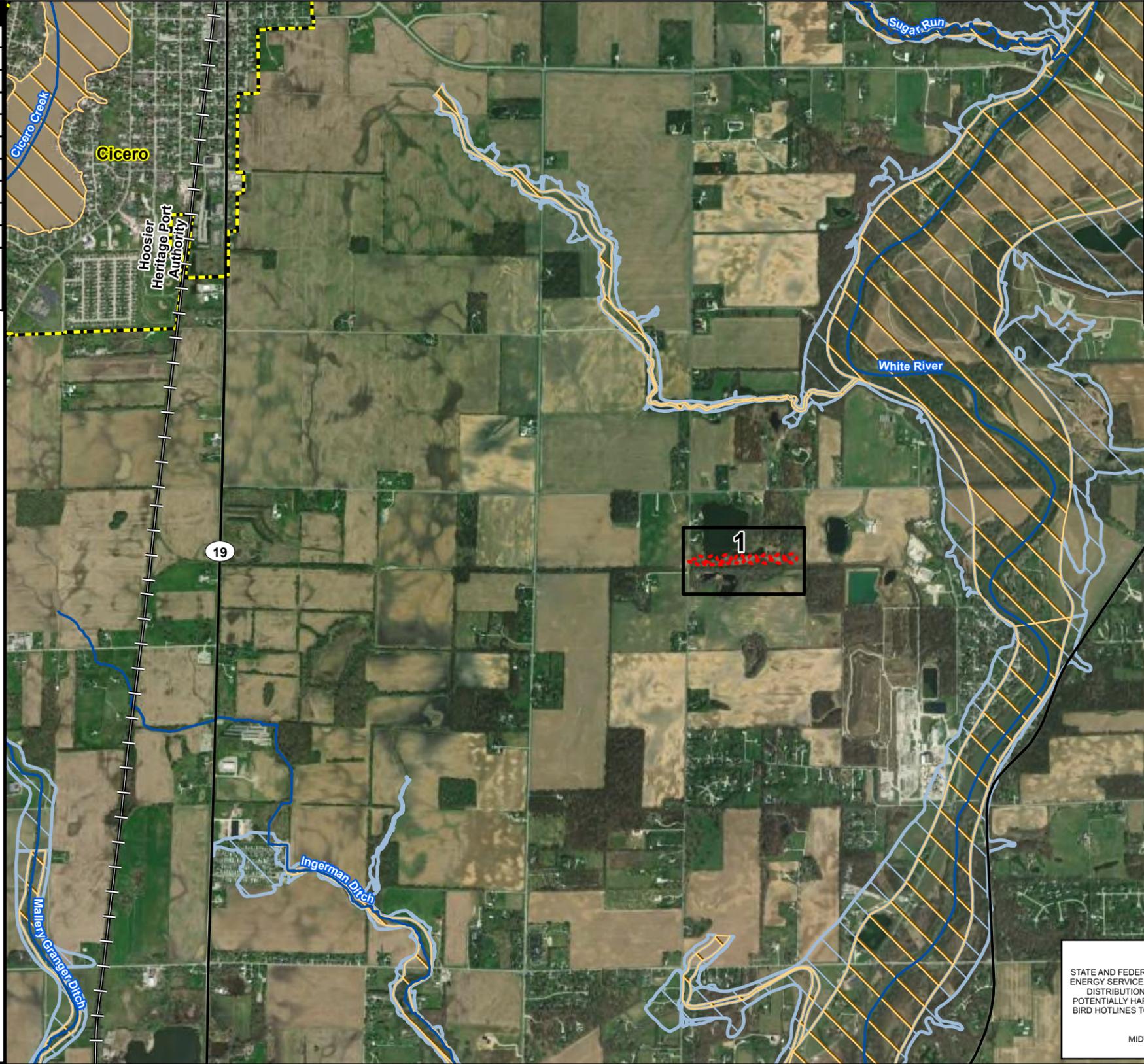
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue  
MC65-42 WQS IGCN 1255  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251 FAX: 317/232-8406



| EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROLS           | PROJECT TOTALS* |
|---|-----------------|
| CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE INSTALLATION      | 1 EA            |
| FILTER SOCK                             | -- LF           |
| SILT FENCE                              | -- LF           |
| CONSTRUCTION MATTING - CONSTRUCTABILITY | -- SF           |
| CONSTRUCTION MATTING - REGULATORY       | 28,532 SF       |
| INLET PROTECTION                        | -- EA           |
| CULVERT STREAM CROSSING                 | -- EA           |
| CLEAR SPAN STREAM CROSSING              | -- EA           |
| REINFORCED LOW WATER STREAM CROSSING    | -- EA           |
| CONCRETE WASHOUT                        | -- EA           |

\*QUANTITIES ABOVE ARE MINIMUM ESTIMATES REQUIRED TO MEET TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS. ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES MAY BE NECESSARY FOR PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND VARYING FIELD CONDITIONS.

- GENERAL NOTES:**
- UTILITY LINE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING IS FOR GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION ONLY AND DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE THE ENGINEERING PLANS.
  - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS LIMITED TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. STREAM, WETLAND, AND POND BOUNDARIES MAY EXTEND BEYOND STUDY AREA.
  - SEE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL DETAILS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS.
  - DEPENDENT ON-SITE CONDITIONS, THE SWPPP MAY BE AMENDED AS NECESSARY BY THE INSPECTING AUTHORITY AND TRAINED, QUALIFIED PERSONNEL DESIGNATED TO BE RESPONSIBLE.
  - PROPOSED ACCESS INDICATES RECOMMENDED APPROXIMATE CONSTRUCTION ROUTE IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND OFFSITE AREAS TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE AND PERMITTING. CONSTRUCTION ROUTE SHALL BE RESTRICTED TO 20-FOOT WIDE PATH. ANY ROUTES OTHER THAN THOSE RECOMMENDED MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERMITTING AND CAUSE DELAYS IN PROJECT.
  - ADEQUATE CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCES SHALL BE PROVIDED OFF ALL PUBLIC ROADWAYS. SITE CONDITIONS AT EACH ENTRANCE SHALL BE EVALUATED TO DETERMINE AMOUNT OF STONE AND TYPE OF GEOTEXTILE FABRIC UNDERLINER.
  - OUTSIDE OF AGRICULTURAL FIELD BOUNDARIES, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT SEEDING SHALL BE APPLIED IN ALL AREAS LEFT DISTURBED 15 DAYS OR MORE PER SWPPP SPECIFICATIONS.
  - EROSION CONTROL BLANKET SHALL BE SUBSTITUTED FOR STRAW MULCH ON ALL SLOPES GREATER THAN 3:1 AND ADJACENT TO STREAM CHANNELS.
  - EROSION CONTROL MEASURES ARE ESTIMATED. THE LOCATION AND QUANTITY MUST BE FIELD VERIFIED BY TRAINED, QUALIFIED PERSONNEL DESIGNATED TO BE RESPONSIBLE.
  - TEMPORARY MATTING SHALL BE UTILIZED AS NEEDED FOR ACCESS AND CONSTRUCTION IN WETLAND AREAS UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.
  - NHD FLOWLINES ARE SHOWN FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND DO NOT NECESSARILY DEFINE THE PRESENCE OF A STREAM. INCREASED WATER FLOW AND/OR EROSION MAY OCCUR IN THESE AREAS, ESPECIALLY WHEN VEGETATION IS REMOVED.
  - FORESTRY CLEARING MAY PRECEDE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, BUT EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLACEMENT SHALL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
  - DISTURBANCE FROM MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT FOR FORESTRY CLEARING NOT PERMITTED IN REGULATED WETLANDS AND STREAMS. HAND CUTTING OR WORK OFF OF CONSTRUCTION MATTING REQUIRED IN THESE AREAS.
  - ALL FORESTRY CLEARING DEBRIS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REGULATED WETLANDS AND STREAMS. CHIPPING OR STOCKPILING PERMISSIBLE IN UPLAND AREAS ONLY.
  - SEE ALL HOTLINE NUMBERS ON COVER SHEET



**PROJECT LOCATION**

HAMILTON COUNTY, IN

**REFERENCE:**  
 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH: Esri's World Imagery 2023, Accessed: 9/23/2025  
 HIGHWAY: Esri's U.S. Major Roads, 5/10/2018.  
 RAILWAY: Indiana Department of Transportation's Active and Abandoned Rail System, 9/13/2006.  
 INCORPORATED AREA: Indiana Department of Transportation's Active and Abandoned Rail System, 9/13/2006.  
 NHD FLOWLINE: United States Geological Survey's National Hydrography Dataset Best Resolution, 12/27/2023.  
 FLOODPLAIN AND FLOODWAY: Indiana Department of Natural Resource's Best Available Flood Hazard Area, Downloaded: 2/28/2025.  
 PROJECT DETAILS: Duke Energy.

Legend:

- State Highway
- Railway
- Incorporated Area
- Study Area
- Sheet Index
- NHD Flowline
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Floodway

DUKE ENERGY  
gai consultants

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCESS AND EROSION CONTROL PLAN

SHEET INDEX

69180 GLT Project (M25008701)

DRAWN BY: MBH  
CHECKED: TDB

DATE: 9/23/2025  
APPROVED: MRW

**MIGRATORY BIRD HOTLINE**

STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS PROTECT ALL SPECIES OF NATIVE BIRDS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE DUKE ENERGY SERVICE AREA. INTERACTIONS OF BIRDS WITH GENERATING FACILITIES, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTIONS, SUBSTATIONS, OTHER STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT, AND OPERATIONS ARE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL OR FATAL TO BIRDS. DUKE ENERGY OPERATES THESE 24-HOUR MIGRATORY BIRD HOTLINES TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS WITH RELATED INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR DURING WORK ACTIVITIES.

MIDWEST: 317.430.4497 | CAROLINAS: 800.573.3853 | FLORIDA: 727.386.3084



## 1.0 Introduction

This regulated waters restoration plan (Plan) serves as guidance and specification for the restoration of temporary impacts to regulated wetlands and streams and other environmentally sensitive areas associated with Duke Energy construction activity.

This Plan was prepared in support of construction activity operating under, or having the potential to fall under, one or more Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 and/or Section 404 permits. For purposes of this Plan, it is assumed any Duke Energy construction project that requires work in, adjacent to, and/or over regulated waters may have planned and/or inadvertent impacts to regulated waters. As such, this Plan is written to account for any planned impacts associated with project activities as well as unintentional disturbance that may result in impacts to regulated waters requiring restoration.

Typical projects result in ground disturbance from structure and/or other facility installation, construction access activities, and, as required, the establishment of any new permanent Right-of-Way (ROW). Overall ground disturbance is expected to be intermittent and dependent upon weather conditions and vehicle and equipment type.

The scope of each project may have changes in construction methods or modification to planned access as shown on the *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project) due to varying field conditions. These modifications have the potential to result in inadvertent temporary or permanent impacts requiring restoration or additional permitting implications. While these changes may be necessary, any modifications must be reviewed prior to implementation by Duke Energy to avoid non-compliance or affect project schedule.

### 1.1 Restoration Goals

- Avoidance and minimization of regulated waters impacts associated with construction activity to the maximum extent practicable.
- Temporary stabilization of regulated waters impacts and/or adjacent disturbed ground to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation.
- Permanent restoration of impacts to all regulated waters to pre-construction elevations, hydrologic condition, and vegetative cover.

## 2.0 Existing Site Condition

Regulated waters and other environmentally sensitive areas identified within the project study area are described in a project specific *Wetland Delineation and Stream Identification Report* (if prepared for a specific project). Location and other site specific information can also be found in any applicable *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project). These documents can be referenced for photographs, location, general characteristics, dimensions, vegetation type, soils, and hydrology for each regulated stream and wetland for documentation of pre-project condition.

## 3.0 Avoidance and Minimization

Avoidance and minimization techniques shall be implemented to the maximum extent practicable in order to reduce impacts and associated restoration. Construction Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be utilized on all Duke Energy construction projects in order to reduce erosion and sedimentation to regulated waters where ground disturbance is required. Spoils management protocol shall be followed at locations where regulated waters impacts may occur including installing perimeter controls around stockpiles and, if necessary, temporarily placing spoils on construction matting when working within wetland boundaries. Excess soil from boring or auguring operations shall be permanently relocated to an upland and non-riparian location. Any required vegetation removal or trimming shall be conducted to preserve vegetation to the maximum extent practicable.

Temporary construction matting shall be required, where feasible, to minimize impacts to wetlands, unless otherwise noted on plans (if prepared for a specific project). Construction matting shall be in sufficient condition as to not break apart and shall be removed from regulated waters in its entirety upon project completion. The type of construction matting utilized shall be appropriate for the ground conditions and equipment type and weight to be supported in order to minimize or eliminate ground disturbance.

Clear span bridging as shown on plan (if prepared for specific project) or as determined by Duke Energy shall be utilized to minimize impacts to streams from temporary crossings where avoidance by alternate access is not feasible. The use of clear span bridging is specified to limit the potential for impact to an elevation above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). Clear span bridging as shown on plan (if prepared for specific project) or as determined by Duke Energy shall be installed properly and be elevated with approaches as to not disrupt preferential flow pathways or disturb the stream bed below the OHWM. Temporary culvert crossings may be utilized where clear span bridging is not appropriate or preferred but must be approved by Duke Energy to adhere to additional permit terms and conditions. Temporary culverts shall be installed in such a way to minimize disturbance below the OHWM while not permanently changing the sinuosity, flow path, velocity, or cross sectional area of the stream under the bank full (BF) elevation. Appropriate measures shall be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding upstream to the maximum extent practicable when utilizing both clear span bridging and temporary culverted crossings. Permanent culverts can also be installed, but shall require review and approval by Duke Energy for adherence to additional permit terms and conditions.

The use of low-water stream crossings or access through wetlands without temporary matting is possibly allowed in certain situations on a project-by-project basis and only when no other alternative avoidance and minimization method exists or is feasible. For instance, emergency situations may utilize alternative methods of access through regulated waters, such as tracked equipment, reinforcement of low-water crossings, or crossing when site conditions are frozen, dry, or free from excess moisture. Restoration in these cases can sometimes require significantly more effort and time to be completed sufficiently, and additional permitting may be required. Under normal circumstances, wetland crossings are reviewed carefully for alternatives by Duke Energy in a manner to reduce the potential for soil profile mixing, compaction, and downstream sedimentation.

#### **4.0 Regulated Waters Impacts**

Wetland and stream bed or bank disturbance may result from temporary construction matting placement, clear span bridging, temporary culverted crossings, low-water crossings, equipment tracking along construction access routes, structure or facility installation, or placement of backfill. Temporary construction matting will limit impacts in regulated wetland areas, but soil compaction and vegetation damage may still occur. Temporary clear span bridging used to cross regulated streams will reduce or eliminate impacts, but stream bank grading, soil compaction, and inadvertent fill below the OHWM has the potential to occur. Temporary culverts used to cross regulated streams will result in temporary fills below the OHWM. Any disturbance of regulated waters as described above must be restored according to this Plan.

#### **5.0 Restoration Plan**

Unless specified for a project, all regulated waters impacts shall be restored to pre-construction elevations, all temporary fill shall be removed, and all disturbed areas shall be permanently stabilized with seed and mulch upon completion of the project. If required to avoid additional soil compaction, first rough grade disturbed areas to pre-construction elevations. When required rough grading is completed, the disturbed area shall be back graded or raked to remove any large soil clods or tire ruts and smoothed to establish a suitable seed bed. Permanent native seed installation and restoration shall occur during normal periods of dry down, but prior to seasonal dry down, if possible. Seeding may occur outside of this window when utilizing temporary cover and mulch stabilization. In the event temporary stabilization is required prior to permanent seeding because construction activity has ceased

in an area for 15 days, either temporary seeding, mulch application, or other erosion control BMPs shall be required. It may take longer than one growing season for permanent seed to become fully established. Permanent seed shall be obtained from native plant nursery sources within the same Environmental Protection Agency Level III Ecoregion as the Project. Seed shall be shipped, stored and handled in a manner that will insure protection from moisture, heat, or other conditions that would jeopardize viability or cause germination before installation. Seed shall be installed to no greater than 0.25 inches in depth. Broadcast seeding is the preferred method of seeding disturbed and newly graded sites. Adequate seed-to-soil contact shall be established by firming the seedbed with a roller or cultipacker following broadcast seeding. A drill seeder shall be used when planting through sparsely or fully vegetated areas. If it is not possible to seed during periods of dry down, seed shall be broadcast directly upon saturated or moist soil surfaces using ATV-mounted cone seeders. If conditions do not allow ATV access without further ground disturbance to the area, hand application of seed by experienced personnel shall be required. Seed shall not be applied to open water, ice, or snow. In all areas where a drill seeder is not used, straw mulch shall be applied at a rate of 2.0 tons/acre following seeding for immediate soil stabilization and moisture retention. Any restored areas of concentrated flow or slopes greater than 3:1 shall be temporary stabilized with biodegradable erosion control blanket.

## 5.1 Wetland Area Restoration

Locations of temporary construction matting in environmentally sensitive areas will be specified in the *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project). Utilizing temporary construction matting and appropriate erosion and sediment controls in wetlands reduces disturbance and the level of restoration required to re-establish pre-construction conditions. An increased level of restoration, and possibly more permitting, is more likely where construction matting is not utilized for access in wetlands.

Back grading to pre-construction elevations shall be required to ensure pre-project hydrologic conditions are re-established. Temporary and permanent seeding with appropriate stabilization measures shall be conducted, if required, following removal of the temporary matted wetland crossings or other physical wetland crossings. The Wetland Area Restoration Seed Mix (**Appendix A, Table 1**) or approved equal, shall be installed within all wetland areas requiring restoration. In certain circumstances a variation and customization of this seed mix may be required to accommodate different hydrologic conditions or land owner preference. Any necessary customized or alternate seed mix, including any specific installation requirements, that vary from this Plan shall be reviewed by Duke Energy and amended to this Plan as a Project Specific Special Provision (**Appendix B**).

If additional wetland impacts are required or inadvertent impacts result in disturbance to wetlands outside of what is identified in the *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project), Duke Energy shall be notified prior to impact and restoration of these areas.

Required regulated wetland protection and restoration procedures are as follows:

1. Install temporary construction matting per specification and/or detail.
2. Install and maintain appropriate erosion and sediment controls.
3. Remove inadvertent and/or temporary fill from wetland.
4. Remove temporary construction matting.
5. Establish pre-construction elevations by grading and/or raking.
6. Install appropriate permanent seed and stabilization measures.
7. Monitor for establishment of vegetation.
8. Remove erosion and sediment controls when vegetation becomes established.

## 5.2 Stream and Riparian, Floodplain Area Restoration

Locations of clear span bridging, temporary culverts, and/or reinforced low water crossings will be specified in the *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project). Utilizing temporary clear span bridging or culverts with appropriate erosion and sediment controls at stream crossing locations reduces disturbance and the level of restoration required to re-establish to pre-construction conditions.

Restoring stream beds and banks to pre-construction elevations shall be required with proper grading to ensure flow pathways and pre-project hydrologic conditions are re-established. Temporary and permanent seeding with appropriate stabilization measures shall be conducted within disturbed riparian areas, stream banks, and floodways following removal of the temporary stream crossings. The Stream and Riparian, Floodplain Area Restoration Seed Mix (**Appendix A, Table 2**) or approved equal, shall be installed within all stream crossing areas requiring restoration. In certain circumstances a variation and customization of this seed mix may be required to accommodate different hydrologic conditions or land owner preference. Any necessary customized or alternate seed mix, including any specific installation requirements, that vary from this Plan shall be reviewed by Duke Energy and amended to this Plan as a Project Specific Special Provision (**Appendix B**).

If additional stream impacts are required or inadvertent impacts result in disturbance to streams outside of what is identified in the *Environmental Access and Erosion Control Plan* (if prepared for a specific project), Duke Energy shall be notified prior to impact and restoration of these areas.

Required stream protection and restoration procedures are as follows:

1. Install and maintain appropriate erosion and sediment controls at each crossing location and approaches.
2. Install temporary stream crossing per specification and/or detail.
3. Remove temporary stream crossing.
4. Remove any temporary fill or excess sediment from stream.
5. Establish pre-construction elevations to the stream bed and banks.
6. Apply appropriate permanent seed and stabilization measures including biodegradable erosion control blanket on all slopes 3:1 or greater and/or areas with expected concentrated flow.
7. Monitor for establishment of vegetation.
8. Remove erosion and sediment controls when vegetation becomes established.

## 5.3 Native Upland Area Restoration

In circumstances where upland native vegetation communities exist and standard ROW seeding is not satisfactory, such as within publically managed lands, conservation areas, private lands, or other high-quality or managed upland habitats, the Native Upland Area Restoration Seed Mix, or approved equal, should be used (**Appendix A, Table 3**). Warm season native grasses can be an appropriate long-term vegetative cover, but these species typically grow slowly and frequently require multiple growing seasons to become fully established. As such, temporary species are specified to provide rapid vegetative growth and ground cover until permanent native grasses become established. In certain circumstances a variation and customization of this seed mix may be required based on land owner preference. Any necessary customized or alternate seed mix, including any specific installation requirements, varying from this Plan shall be reviewed by Duke Energy and amended to this Plan as a Project Specific Special Provision (**Appendix B**). This seed mix may also be used for an upland buffer area outside of higher quality wetlands to aid restoration and protect against invasive species.

## 6.0 Monitoring

Monitoring practices shall be implemented to aid in the establishment of the permanent native seed and acceptable restoration of impacts. Wetland and stream restoration areas shall be monitored to ensure re-establishment of pre-construction elevations and hydrologic condition, minimization of erosion and sedimentation, and establishment of adequate permanent vegetation. Monitoring specific to vegetative establishment shall focus on the development of vegetative cover within wetlands and riparian areas, stream banks and floodways, as opposed to development of native vegetation due to invasive pressure typically encountered within new and existing ROW. The need for supplemental seeding shall be determined by the middle of the first growing season following restoration. Any area documented as having inadequate coverage or establishment shall require supplemental seeding and stabilization following the restoration guidelines as specified in this Plan. Adequate coverage is defined as greater than or equal to 70% areal density coverage by visual estimation of vegetation. Any areas impacted within the ROW shall be maintained in accordance with easement guidelines and consist of vegetative mowing and/or woody species removal as required. Any additional specific monitoring guidelines or success criteria shall be reviewed by Duke Energy and amended to this Plan as a Project Specific Special Provision (**Appendix B**).