

CHAPTER 5 - UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG)
PERMITTING

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Intended Use of Manual for INDOT and Local Projects

This manual has been written to set expectations for waterway permitting deliverables and review paths for projects developed by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Other projects may also benefit from the guidance in this manual. Specifically, preparers of permits for local projects that receive federal funds and which follow INDOT standard specifications are encouraged to use this manual; however, INDOT does not review permits or other related deliverables for local projects

CHAPTER 5 - UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG) PERMITTING

Introduction to USCG Permitting

The USCG approves the location and plans for bridges and causeways on navigable waters of the U.S. Federal law prohibits the construction of these structures, or their modifications, without USCG approval.

The majority of Indiana lies within the Eighth Coast Guard District with portions of northern Indiana falling under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Coast Guard District (above the 41st parallel). Figure 5.1 on the following page provides a breakdown of U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction in Indiana.

Table 5.1 U.S. Coast Guard Sector Offices

U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District New Orleans, Louisiana	U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District Cleveland, Ohio
Sector Western Rivers 1222 Spruce Street, Suite 2.102D St. Louis, MO 63103 314-269-2378	Sector Lake Michigan 2420 S. Lincoln Memorial Dr Milwaukee, WI 53207 Phone 414-747-7100
	Sector Field Office Grand Haven, MI USCG SFO Grand Haven 650 South Harbor Dr Grand Haven, MI 49417

5.1 Section 9 Permits

Background

A Section 9 bridge permit is written approval from the USCG for work proposed in a navigable waterway. A permit is needed for any waterway that meets the definition of navigable under 33 CFR 2.36. This includes territorial seas of the U.S., internal waters of the U.S. subject to tidal influence, and internal waters that are (or have been) used for interstate or foreign commerce. The following INDOT projects typically require USCG Section 9 permits:

- New bridge construction across any navigable waters; and
- Bridge maintenance and repair on navigable waters depending on the scope of work and impacts to navigation.

Some maintenance and repair on structures over navigable waterways can be conducted without a Section 9 permit. For example, in many instances, bridge painting will not require a permit even though false work (suspended platforms) is needed to access portions of the structure. The USCG, however, should be consulted on all maintenance/repair projects on navigable waterways to determine whether or not a permit is needed.

U.S. Coast Guard District Map

U.S. Coast Guard Eighth (8th) District

U.S. Coast Guard Ninth (9th) District



This map is intended to serve as an aid in graphic representation only. This information is not warranted for accuracy or other purposes.

Sources: **Non Orthophotography Data** - Obtained from the State of Indiana Geographical Information Office Library
Orthophotography - Obtained from Indiana Map Framework Data (www.indianamap.org)
 Map Projection: UTM Zone 16 N Map Datum: NAD83

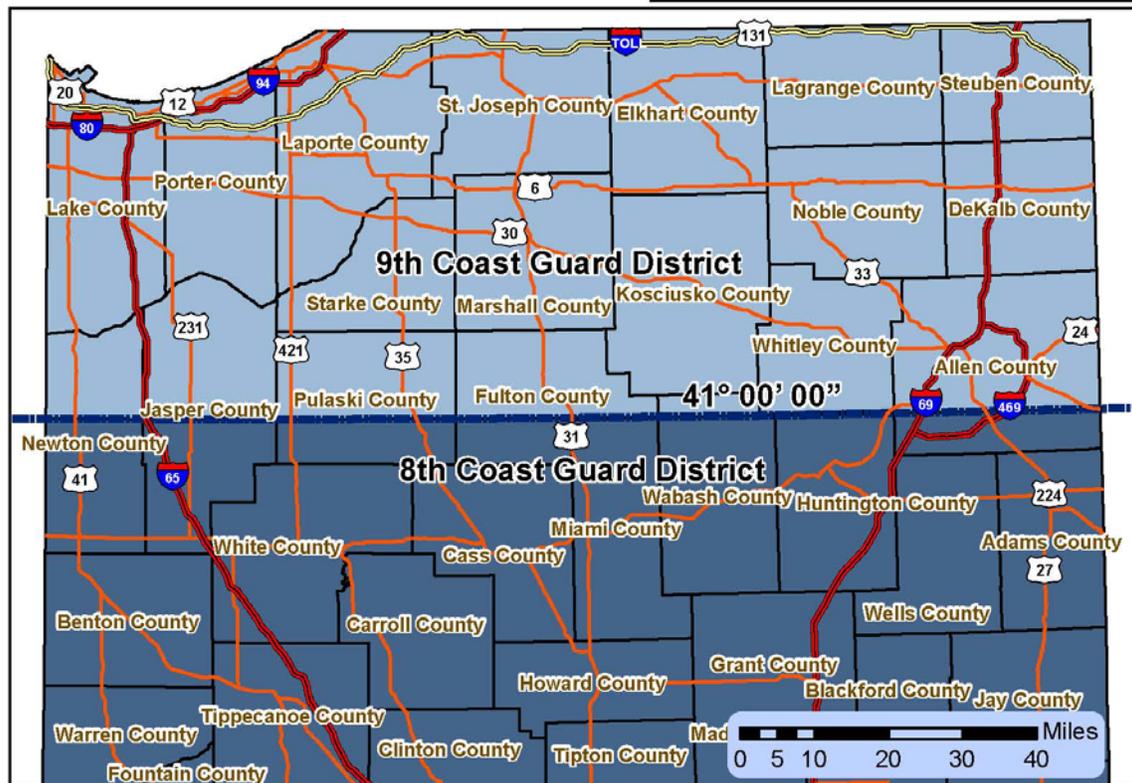


Figure 5.1: U.S. Coast Guard Districts in Indiana

Application Process

The project designer should submit early coordination correspondence to the EWPO for review and eventual submittal to the U.S. Coast Guard for all projects located on navigable waterways. This submittal should include:

- Location maps (topography and aerial) of the proposed project;
- Project plans; and
- Project scope including perceived impacts to navigation (if any).

After review, EWPO staff will submit the early coordination correspondence to the USCG for their permit determination. The USCG will respond with a letter indicating whether or not a Section 9 permit is required. If a permit is not required, the USCG will likely request notification prior to construction initiation. If a Section 9 Permit is required, an application must be prepared and submitted to INDOT for review. See Appendix C-7 – Bridge Permit Applications Guide, which includes a checklist of material to include Section 9 applications. After EWPO review and signature the application will be submitted to the USCG.

The USCG publishes the public notice for each Section 9 application. The USCG will not issue a permit until completion of this public notice process. In order to streamline USCG review and authorization of the Section 9 Bridge Permit, it is necessary to have the NEPA document completed and authorized prior to submission of the Section 9 Bridge Permit.

5.2 USCG Permitting Scenarios

The following are example projects provided to illustrate instances when a Section 9 permit may be required. This list is not all inclusive. The USCG makes the final decision regarding any Section 9 permit need.

- INDOT will be painting an existing interstate highway bridge over the Ohio River. To reach the beams and understory of the structure, falsework will be constructed. No impact to navigation is anticipated. INDOT coordinates with the USCG and receives a ruling that a Section 9 permit will not be required. The USCG does request notification prior to the initiation of work.
- INDOT proposes a bridge rehabilitation of an existing interstate highway bridge over the Ohio River. Work will include the demolition of the existing structure, which will require barges on the river to collect demolition debris. INDOT coordinates with the USCG and receives a ruling that a Section 9 permit will be required.
- INDOT proposes the construction of a new bridge over the Ohio River. INDOT coordinates with the USCG and receives as determination that a Section 9 permit will be required.

