



**Public Notice**  
**Tennessee Department of Environment and  
Conservation (TDEC)**  
**Division of Water Resources (DWR)**  
**Notice Requesting Public Comments on Draft  
Permit Actions**  
**FILE # NRS24.052**

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The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following proposed permit action and solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on the aquatic environment.

Pursuant to The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, T.C.A. §69-3-108 and Tennessee Rules, Chapter 0400-40-07, the proposed activity described below has been submitted for approval under an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant obtain a water quality certification from the state when a federal permit is required. This notice is intended to inform interested parties of this permit application and draft permit and rationale, and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. At the conclusion of the public notice period a final determination will be made whether to issue or deny the permit.

**PERMIT COORDINATOR**

Mike Lee  
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation  
Division of Water Resources, Natural Resources Unit  
Davy Crockett Tower  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
(615) 532-0712  
[Mike.lee@tn.gov](mailto:Mike.lee@tn.gov)

**APPLICANT:**

Ms. Emily Haun, Manager  
Gatlinburg Airport Authority  
134 Air Museum Way  
Sevierville, TN 37862  
(865) 453-8393

**LOCATION :**

134 Air Museum Way, Sevierville, Sevier County.  
Latitude: 35.856425, Longitude -83.524821

To view the proposed location of these impacts and the watershed condition, visit the Division's map viewer at <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/dwr/> and search on the permit number or coordinates listed in this Public Notice.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION / PURPOSE**

The applicant proposes to relocate the runway to meet FAA standards. The proposed action will construct a new 5,500-foot by 100-foot runway at least 100-feet to the south of the existing runway. The proposed project includes an impact of 0.87-acres. The State of Tennessee Public Chapter No. 170, effective January 1, 2024, exempts from compensatory mitigation an amount of wetland equal in size to the area for which mitigation would not be required if the permit qualified for a general permit. No Tennessee Rapid Assessment Method (TRAM) for wetlands was performed on the wetlands during the assessment, so it is assumed that 0.1-acres of wetlands would have been covered under a general ARAP should it have qualified. Therefore, 0.77-acres of wetland impact is proposed for compensatory mitigation. Compensatory mitigation for permanent wetland impacts of 0.77 acres will be provided at a 2:1 ratio through purchase of 1.54 credits from the Lick Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank #2.

## ANTIDegradation STATEMENT

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 0400-40-03-.06), the Division has made a preliminary determination that the proposed activities will result in greater than de minimis degradation of waters with available parameters to be compensated for at the Lick Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank. Any appreciable permanent loss of resource value associated with the proposed impact is proposed to be offset by sufficient mitigation to result in no overall net loss of resource value. Pursuant to Antidegradation Statement, in waters with available parameters for habitat, an activity that would cause degradation of habitat above the level of de minimis will only be authorized if applicant has demonstrated to the Department that there are no practicable alternatives to prevent or lessen degradation associated with the proposed activity and the degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area and will not violate the water quality criteria for uses existing in the receiving waters.

For more information, please reference Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement which is found in Chapter 0400-40-03 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

## FACTORS CONSIDERED

In deciding whether to issue or deny this permit, the Division will consider all comments of record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. The division will consider the nature, scale, and effects of proposed impacts. The Division will consider practicable alternatives to the alteration, loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impacts to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

## HOW TO COMMENT

TDEC is requesting public comment on this proposed permit action. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure appropriate decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the Division. Written comments must be received within **thirty days following distribution of the approved public notice materials** (including signage and newspaper ad). Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced. Send all written comments to the Division's address listed below to the attention of the permit coordinator. You may also comment via email to [water.permits@tn.gov](mailto:water.permits@tn.gov).

After the Division makes a final permit determination, a permit appeal may be filed by the applicant or by any person who participated in the public comment period whose appeal is based on comments given to the Division in writing during the public comment period or in testimony at a formal public hearing. If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Alisha Looper at 615-571-4470 or [alisha.looper@tn.gov](mailto:alisha.looper@tn.gov).

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Alisha Looper al 615-571-4470 o [alisha.looper@tn.gov](mailto:alisha.looper@tn.gov).

## FILE REVIEW

The permit application, supporting documentation, including detailed plans and maps, draft permit and rationale, and related comments are available for review on the internet at the Division's Permits Dataviewer [Report on Permits \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/permits) by entering the permit file number listed in the title of this Public Notice. The file may be viewed and copied at the address listed below.

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Division of Water Resources  
Natural Resources Unit  
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