DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
Regional General Permit SAJ-14

MAR 01 2001

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

GENERAL PERMIT SAJ-14

SUBAQUEOUS UTILITY AND TRANSMISSION LINES IN FLORIDA

Upon recommendation of the Chief of Engineers pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, general authority is hereby given to install and maintain subaqueous utility lines and associated backfill in waters of the U.S. within the State of Florida subject to the following conditions:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. The work herein authorized includes the installation and maintenance of subaqueous utility and transmission lines embedded in the bottom of navigable waters of the United States in the State of Florida. Except as noted in Special Condition #5 below, all subaqueous utility and/or transmission lines, authorized by this general permit must be installed a minimum of 4 feet below the bottom contour.

2. No work shall be performed until the applicant submits satisfactory plans for the proposed activity and receives written authorization from the District Engineer

3. No utility and/or transmission lines will be embedded in the bottom of State Class I or Class II waters or aquatic preserves.

4. Applicable permits under part IV of chapter 373 of the Florida Statutes, and applicable state lands authorizations under chapter 253 of the Florida Statutes must be obtained from the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), or Water Management District (WMD), or their authorized representatives, as appropriate, for subaqueous utility and/or transmission lines involving structures and fill in the waters of the State.

5. In all Florida counties east of Jefferson County, all subaqueous utility and/or transmission lines, authorized by this general permit must be installed a minimum of 6 feet below the authorized depth of any Federal Channel it crosses. The 6-foot criteria applies to the entire authorized width of the channel, plus a minimum of 25 feet outside the channel edges to allow for maintenance of the side slopes. In all Florida counties west of Jefferson County, the minimum clearance shall be 10 feet below the authorized channel depth.

6. Dredged or fill material placed as backfill or bedding for subaqueous utility and transmission lines must not change the preconstruction bottom contours. Excess material must be removed to an upland disposal area.

7. The permittee will install signs at the shoreline to notify navigational interests of the location of subaqueous utility and transmission lines.

8. No work shall be performed until after the permittee provides notification to the owner(s) or operator(s) of any marked utilities in the area of work.

9. NOAA has been notified of this authorization. The permittee must notify NOAA and this office in writing, at least two weeks before beginning the authorized work and again upon completion. The permittee shall notify the District Engineer at the letterhead address, attention Regulatory Division, and NOAA, NOAA, National Ocean Survey, Atlantic Marine Center - Charting, 439 West York Street, Norfolk, VA 23510. This notification will certify that the project is constructed as authorized, and must include a drawing that certifies the location and configuration of the completed activity.

10. SAJ-14 is not applicable in the geographical boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve (Duval County); the St. Mary's River, from its headwaters to its confluence with the Bells River; the entire Wekiva River, including Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run, the entire Seminole Creek, and Black Water Creek from its outfall at Lake Norris to its confluence with the Wekiva River; the Loxahatchee River from Riverbend Park downstream to Jonathan Dickinson State Park; the Okeechobee Waterway between the St. Lucie Lock in Martin County and the W.P. Franklin Lock in Lee County; the following state parks: John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Lignum Vitae Key State Botanical Site and Aquatic Preserve, Long Key State Park, Curry Hammock State Park, and Bahia Honda State Park.

11. No registered property or properties listed as eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places may be affected. Prior to the start of work, the permittee must contact the State Historic Preservation Officer in Tallahassee and receive confirmation that no impacts to cultural resources will occur.

12. Prior to issuance of authorization the dichotomous key entitled, "Guidance to the Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, and the Department of Environmental Protection regarding 'may affect' determinations for the manatee in Florida", will be used to determine potential manatee impacts. Projects judged as a "may affect" to the manatee will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. *Note: The manatee key may be subject to revision at any time. It is our intention that the most recent version of this technical tool will be utilized during the evaluation of the permit application.*

13. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of manatees and the need to avoid collisions with manatees. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s).

14. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. The permittee and/or contractor may be held responsible for any manatee harmed, harassed, or killed as a result of construction activities.

15. Siltation barriers shall be installed, shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be monitored regularly to avoid manatee entrapment. Barriers shall not block manatee entry to or exit from essential habitat.

16. All vessels associated with the project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than four feet clearance from the bottom and that vessels shall follow routes of deep water whenever possible.

17. If a manatee is sighted within 100 yards of the project area, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented by the permittee/contractor to ensure protection of the manatee. These precautions shall include operating all equipment in such a

manner that moving equipment does not come within 50 feet to any manatee. Operation of any equipment closer than 50 feet to a manatee shall necessitate immediate shutdown of that equipment. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has departed the project area of its own volition.

18. Any collision with and/or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the "Manatee Hotline" at 1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922). **Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-232-2580) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-561-562-3909) in south Florida.**

19. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during construction/dredging activities. All temporary signs are to be removed by the permittee/contractor/lessee/grantee upon completion of the project. A sign measuring at least 3 feet by 4 feet which reads *Caution: Manatee Area* will be posted in a location prominently visible to water related construction crews. A second sign should be posted if vessels are associated with the construction, and should be placed visible to the vessel operator. The second sign should be at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches which reads:

> *Caution: Manatee Habitat. Idle speed is required if operating a vessel in the construction area. All equipment must be shutdown if a manatee comes within 50 feet of the operation. A collision with and/or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Marine Patrol at 1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (1-904-232-2580) for north Florida or (1-561-562-3909) for south Florida.*

20. No activity shall be authorized under this general permit which by its size or location may adversely affect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, or emergent or submerged aquatic vegetation.

21. This general permit will be valid until suspended or revoked by the issuance of a public notice by the District Engineer. Reviews will be conducted every 5 years to determine if continuance of the permit is in the public interest. Authorization of activities that have commenced or are under contract to commence in reliance on SAJ-14 will remain in effect provided the activity is completed within 12 months of the date SAJ-14 expired or was revoked.

22. Conformance with the descriptions and criteria contained herein does not necessarily guarantee authorization under this general permit.

23. The permittee shall defend and hold the Government harmless from any and all claims by reason of the placement and installation of subaqueous utility and transmission lines authorized by this permit.

24. No activity shall be authorized under this general permit which is likely to adversely affect a Federally listed threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, or destroy or adversely modify its designated critical habitat.

25. The District Engineer reserves the right to require that any request for authorization under this general permit be processed as a standard permit.

26. The permittee shall perform all work in accordance with the attached general conditions.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

John R Hall for
James G. May
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMITS

General Conditions

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on _____.

2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and mailing address of the new owner in the space provided below and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.

5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit.

6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

7. The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structures or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

Further Information:

1. Limits of this authorization.

   a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.

   b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

   c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

   d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.

2. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

   a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

3. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.

4. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 3 above).

c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

5. Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

_____ _____
(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE) (DATE)

_____
(NAME-PRINTED)

_____
(ADDRESS)

GENERAL PERMIT