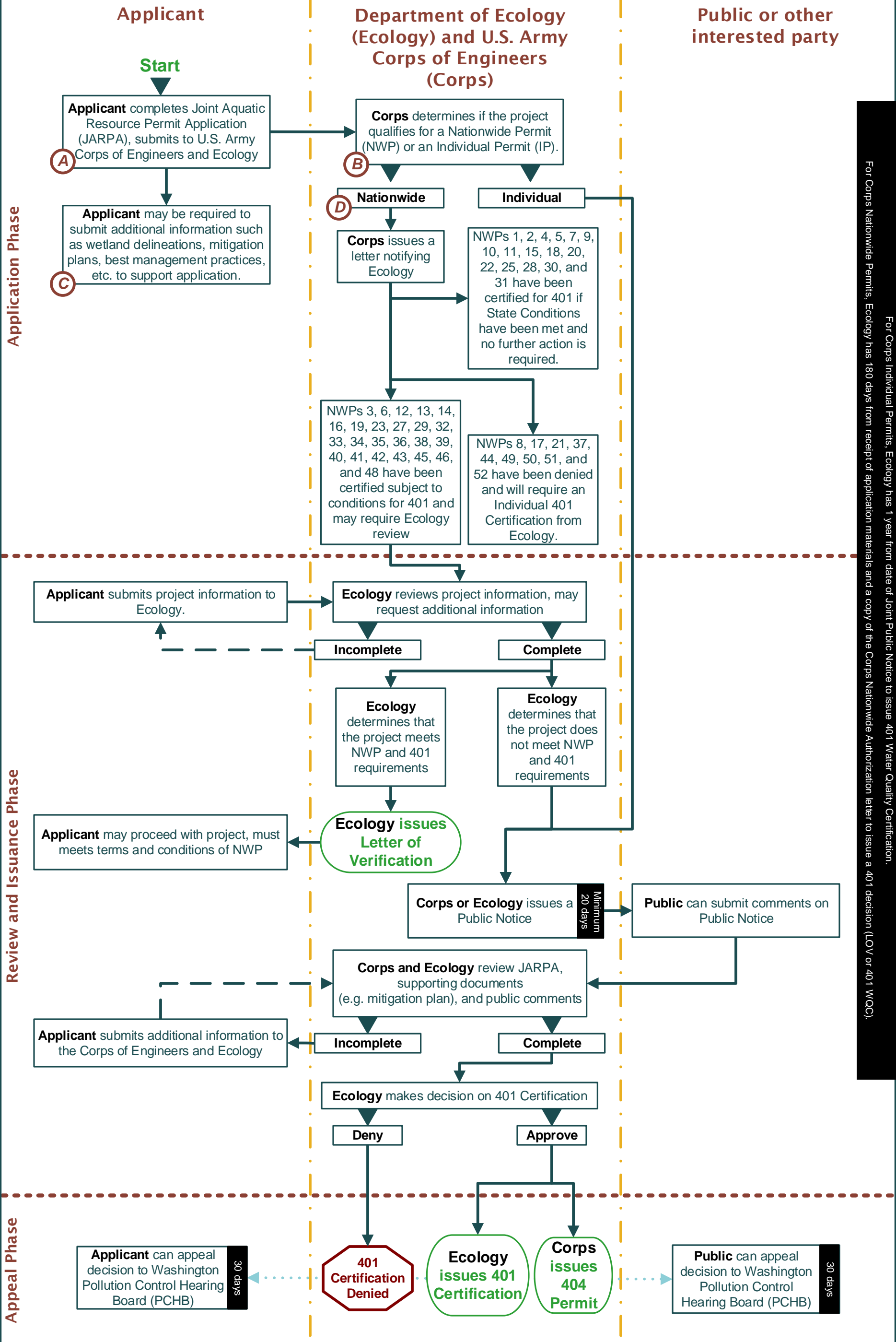


401 Water Quality Certification



For Corps Nationwide Permits, Ecology has 180 days from receipt of application materials and a copy of the Corps Nationwide Authorization letter to issue a 401 decision (LOV or 401 WQC). For Corps Individual Permits, Ecology has 1 year from date of Joint Public Notice to issue 401 Water Quality Certification.

Legend: (A) =Hyperlink → =Progression - - -> =Revision > =Optional

Link A

Triggers for 401 Water Certification:

Applying for a federal license or permit for any activity that could cause a discharge of dredge or fill material into water or non-isolated wetlands or excavation in water or non-isolated wetlands.

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Link B

Nationwide permits and Individual Permits:

Information from the Corps web site: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Regulatory.aspx>

INDIVIDUAL PERMITS Individual permits are issued following a full public interest review of an individual application for a Department of the Army permit. A public notice is distributed to all known interested persons. After evaluating all comments and information received, final decision on the application is made.

The permit decision is generally based on the outcome of a public interest balancing process where the benefits of the project are balanced against the detriments. A permit will be granted unless the proposal is found to be contrary to the public interest. Processing time usually takes 60 to 120 days unless a public hearing is required or an environmental statement must be prepared. To apply for an individual permit, an application form must be completed. This application is available from all regulatory offices.

NOTE: The Corps cannot issue an individual permit until the state issues or waives the 401 Certification.

LETTERS OF PERMISSION A Letter of Permission is a type of permit issued through an abbreviated processing procedure which includes coordination with Federal and State environmental agencies and a public interest evaluation, but without the publishing of an individual public notice. This permit is normally used for activities in navigable waters where objections are unlikely, and the activity does not qualify for a General Permit.

NATIONWIDE PERMITS A nationwide permit is a form of general permit which authorizes a category of activities throughout the nation. These permits are valid only if the conditions applicable to the permits are met. If the conditions cannot be met, a regional or individual permit will be required.

Please see the Corps [Nationwide Permit](#) page for more information.

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