

Columbia River CROSSING a long-term, comprehensive solution.

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Permitting

CRC must obtain several permits to begin construction. The permit application process began after the federal Record of Decision was signed in December 2011. Key permits and approvals include:

- General Bridge Permit
- Section 401 certification
- Section 404 permit
- Section 408 authorization

More information about CRC's federal permits and respective timelines is available at the [Federal Infrastructure Projects Permitting Dashboard](#).

General Bridge Permit

Under the General Bridge Act of 1946, approval for reconstruction of bridges over navigable waterways must be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard. CRC submitted a general bridge permit application on January 30, 2013 for a bridge with 116 feet of vertical clearance above 0 feet [Columbia River Datum \(CRD\)](#).

After substantial technical analysis of the impacts of an Interstate 5 bridge height between 95 and 125 feet, the CRC found that a bridge with a 116 foot vertical clearance reduces the number of river users potentially impacted to four while balancing community, environmental, freight and cost impacts. A federal evaluation in December 2012 determined that the impacts associated with a 116 foot bridge are consistent with the Record of Decision.

The U.S. Coast Guard is considering the application. A 45-day public comment period is currently open and will close June 20, 2013.

[View permit application materials and related documents](#)

401 certification

CRC is required to obtain a Section 401 certification under the federal Clean Water Act from both the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Washington State Department of Ecology before federal permits may be issued. Section 401 certifications address aquatic resource impacts including wetlands and water quality.

CRC submitted applications for 401 certification in January 2013. Public review periods for the applications closed April 15, 2013 (US Army Corps of Engineers) and May 13, 2013 (OR Department of Environmental Quality). The Oregon DEQ held an information meeting on May 6, 2013. More information can be found on agency websites.

[View the US Army Corps of Engineers water quality certification website](#)

[View the Oregon DEQ water quality certification website](#)

[View the application submittal for the Washington Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application \(JARPA\) and attachments in the technical reports section of our web library](#)

The JARPA is a standardized permit application that is used to apply for the Washington Section 401 permit and the Washington Hydraulic Project Approval.

[View the Section 401 public notice from the Washington Department of Ecology](#)

The Oregon Section 401 review process is triggered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 application. See Section 404 below for more information and the public notice.

Section 404 permit



CRC is required to obtain a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This permit regulates the discharge of dredged and fill materials into waterways. CRC submitted the permit application on November 30, 2012. A public comment period for the 404 application began on February 11, 2013 and occurs concurrent to the Section 401 review period. The public comment period closed April 15, 2013.

[View the application submittal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit and attachments in the technical reports section of our web library](#)

[View the Section 404 public notice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Section 408 authorization

Section 408 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 requires authorization for modifications to an existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. CRC is working to obtain two Section 408 authorizations for modifications to the Columbia River navigation channels and to river levees on the south bank of the river. These authorizations allow the project to move forward with obtaining a Section 404 permit.

The multi-step application process for the modifications to the navigation channel began in December 2012 and is scheduled to be finalized in July 2014. The levee modifications application process will begin in August 2013 and is scheduled to end in August 2015. The Section 408 request is included in the Section 404 public notice.

Additional Permits

Various other permits and approvals also will be required from federal, state, regional and local governments. Below is a partial list:

Federal

- Federal Aviation Administration Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration

Oregon

- Removal and Fill Permit
 - [View the application submittal for the Oregon Joint Permit Application \(JPA\)](#)
The JPA is a standardized permit application that is used to apply for the Oregon Removal-Fill permit.
 - [View the Removal-Fill public notice from the OR Department of State Lands](#)
- Lease/Bridge Easement Permit
- Oregon Fish Passage Act Approval
- Archaeological Excavation Permit

Washington

- Hydraulic Project Approval Permit
- Shoreline Management Act Permit
- Lease/ Bridge Easement Permit
- Section 106 Archaeological Treatment Plan Approval
- Department of Natural Resources Application for Authorization

City of Portland

- Land Use Review
- Noise Variance

City of Vancouver

- Land Use Approval
- Transportation Development Review
- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Noise Permit

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