Appendix G I-73 South Approved Jurisdictional Determinations



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

March 18, 2008

Regulatory Division

Ms. Renée Y. Flinchum-Bowles The LPA Group Incorporated P.O. Box 5805 Columbia, SC 29250

> Re: SAC SAC 2007-1331-DJS I-73 South Roadway Corridor SC DOT PIN# 36358 RD01 Dillon, Marion, and Horry Counties

Dear Ms. Flinchum-Bowles:

This is in response to your letter of June 1, 2007, requesting a wetland determination, on behalf of SC DOT, for an approximately 3200 acre tract, located along the proposed corridor for the Southern portion of I-73 from S.C. 22 near Spring Hill, Horry County, South Carolina to I-95 between exit 181 (I-95/SC 38 Interchange) and exit 190 (I-95/SC 34 Interchange), in Dillon County, South Carolina. The project area is depicted on the enclosed sketches including Figures 1of 34 entitled "PIN 36358 RD01, Proposed Interstate 73, Wetland Delineation, Marion, Dillon, Horry Counties, Dated November 27, 2007 " through Figures 34 of 34 entitled "PIN 36358 RD01, Proposed Interstate 73, Wetland Delineation, Marion, Dillon, Horry Counties, Dated November 27, 2007" submitted 10/23/2007.

Based on an on-site inspection, a review of aerial photography, topographic maps, National Wetland Inventory maps and soil survey information, it has been concluded that the boundaries shown on the referenced sketch are a reasonable approximation of the location and boundaries of the wetlands found on this site. The property in question contains approximately 579.5 acres of federally defined freshwater wetlands and other waters of the United States subject to the jurisdiction of this office. However, you are cautioned that this delineation is approximate, subject to change, and should be used for planning purposes only. This office should be contacted prior to performing any work in or around these approximated wetlands or other waters of the United States. In order for a more accurate delineation to be provided, these areas should be located and marked on-site, and surveyed and platted on a map (in order for the wetland line to be reproduced in the future based solely on the platted map). Upon receipt of such a plat, this office can then issue a letter verifying the accuracy of the actual jurisdictional boundaries. You should also be aware that the areas identified as wetlands or other waters of the United States may be subject to restrictions or requirements of other state or local government entities.

In addition, the property in question contains approximately 41.5 acres of federally defined freshwater wetlands as defined by the 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual; however, they are not considered to be subject to the jurisdiction of this office due to

decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and, as such, Department of the Army authorization will not be required for mechanized land clearing, excavation, or the placement of dredged or fill material on this site. The location and configuration of these areas are reflected on the sketch referenced above. It should be clearly noted that decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court to exclude certain waters and wetlands from federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act has no effect on any state or local government restrictions or requirements concerning aquatic resources, including wetlands. You are strongly cautioned to ascertain whether such restrictions or requirements exist for the area in question before undertaking any activity which might destroy or otherwise impact these wetland resources.

Please note that the actual boundary of wetlands is approximate and, therefore, is subject to change and not appealable; however, the determination of jurisdiction over these wetlands is final and this approved jurisdictional determination is an appealable action under the Corps of Engineers administrative appeal procedures defined at 33 CFR 331. The administrative appeal options, process and appeals request form is attached for your convenience and use. If a permit application is forthcoming as a result of this delineation, a copy of this letter, as well as the verified sketch should be submitted as part of the application. Otherwise, a delay could occur in confirming that a delineation was performed for the permit project area.

Please be advised that this determination is valid for five (5) years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the delineation before the expiration date. All actions concerning this determination must be complete within this time frame, or an additional determination and delineation must be conducted.

In future correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to SAC 2007-1331-DJS. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Stephen A. Brumagin at 803-253-3445.

Respectfully,

Travis G. Hughes

Branch Chief, Special Projects Branch

Enclosures:

Approved Jurisdictional Determination Form Notification of Appeal Options

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Mitchell Metts, P.E., Project Manager SC DOT 955 Park Street P.O. Box 191 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

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Appl	icant:	File Number:	Date:
Attached is:			See Section below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (S	tandard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Pe	ermit or Letter of permission)	В
	PERMIT DENIAL	·	С
X	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL	DETERMINATION	D
	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL	DETERMINATION	E

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- A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.
- B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final
 authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your
 signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights
 to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you
 may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this
 form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the
 date of this notice.
- C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- **D:** APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.
- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the
 date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative
 Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division,
 60 Forsyth St, SW, Atlanta, GA 30308-8801. This form must be received by the Division Engineer within 60 days of the date
 of this notice.
- E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

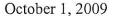
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REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (D	escribe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an a attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a revi record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplementa	al information that the review officer has determined is needed to
clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the C you may provide additional information to clarify the location of	orps may add new information or analyses to the record. However,
incipul di Cidan de la real du Palificiale de la mail	Rivas Maorie
If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact the Corps biologist who signed the	If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact the Coordinator for Appeals in our South Atlantic
letter to which this notification is attached. The name and telephone number of this person is given at the end of the letter.	Division Office in Atlanta, Georgia at (404) 562-5136.
	60 Forsyth St, SW Atlanta, GA 30308-8801
RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of ent consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to pa	course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day
	Date: Telephone number:
Signature of appellant or agent.	



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200 Charleston, South Carolina 29407





Mr. Edward Frierson
Environmental Project Manager
South Carolina Department
of Transportation
P.O. Box 191
Columbia, SC 29202-0191

Re: Re-evaluation of Biological Assessment, I-73, Conway to I-95, Various Counties,

FWS Log No. 42410-2009-I-0645

Dear Mr. Frierson:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has reviewed the plans for this proposed project. Based on our review and the information received:

	We concur with your determination that the proposed action will have no effect on resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that are currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)(Act). Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.
Ø	We concur with your determination that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that are currently protected by the Act. Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.
	It is our opinion that the proposed action is not likely to have reasonably foreseeable adverse effects on resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that are currently protected by the Act. Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.
	The proposed project may impact wetlands. Please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District for more information.



Please note that obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action may affect any listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not considered in this assessment, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified action.

If you have any questions regarding the Service's determination, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Caldwell at (843) 727-4707 ext. 215.

Sincerely,

Timothy N. Hall Field Supervisor

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TNH/MAC/km

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505 http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

> F/SER31:EGH SER-2013-10712

Mr. Travis G. Hughes Chief, Special Projects Branch Department of the Army Charleston District, Corps of Engineers 69-A Hagwood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina293403-5107

Ref.: SAC-2008-1333, South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) new Interstate Highway 73 (I-73) construction over the Little Pee Dee River, Horry/Marion County Line, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Hughes:

By letter dated February 8, 2013, you requested National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) comments on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District's proposed issuance of a regulatory permit to SCDOT authorizing the placement of fill materials in waters of the United States during construction of the referenced interstate highway and bridge construction project proposed by SCDOT. We have treated your request for comments as a request for informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In its Public Notice dated January 26, 2011, the USACE previously determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. At the time, the USACE did not request ESA Section 7 consultation with NMFS nor seek our concurrence with USACE's project-effect determinations. Since issuance of the USACE public notice, the Atlantic sturgeon was listed under the ESA. As a result, USACE requested SCDOT to submit a revised biological assessment on potential effects of the action on the newly listed species. The assessment was included in your request for comments. Our findings on the effects of the proposed action on shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon are based on the following project description based on information in your letter, and on conversations my staff had with USACE staffers and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources sturgeon biologists. Changes to the proposed action may negate our findings and may require reinitiating consultation.

SCDOT proposes to a build a new interstate highway bridge over the Little Pee Dee River at approximate location 34.144969°N, 79.207861°W, North American Datum 1983, as part of a new interstate highway (I-73) from SC-22 in Horry County to the North Carolina state line northeast of Bennettsville in Marlboro County. The new four-lane interstate highway will parallel state road SC-917 near the town of Mullens and cross the Little Pee Dee River at the Horry County-Marion County Line. The new river crossing consisting of two adjacent, two-lane bridges parallel to each other will be built near Church Landing Road, just downriver of the existing SC-917 two-lane bridge over the river, about five miles southeast of the town of Mullens (see Figures 1-3).

The construction and expansion of the aforementioned bridges will be conducted as follows: Construction work over the river will be done inside specially built cofferdams, enabling the bridge support structures ("bents") to be built on dry land within the river. The cofferdams will be installed at the locations where the bridge support structures will later be built, then pumped dry to enable workers inside. Workers then install steel structural rebar and pour concrete for the bent construction. The completed bents will later support the bridge spans across the river. To protect potentially spawning



Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon that may be moving upriver or downriver past the site during construction, SCDOT will implement an in-water work moratorium from February 1 to April 30. Construction of cofferdams may take place before or after the moratorium, but not during the moratorium. However, once a cofferdam is built, work inside it may continue year-round. Bridge construction may take up to two years. Bridge construction will never obstruct more than half of the river at any one time, to prevent potential hindrance of anadromous fish passage. Use of turbidity controls (such as Type C silt fences) during construction is part of the best management practices routinely implemented by SCDOT during construction in wetlands to prevent adverse water quality effects to anadromous fishes and other species.

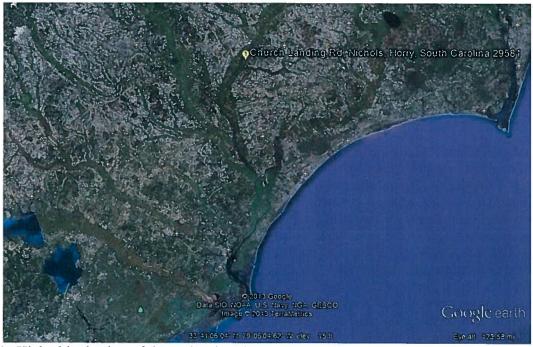


Figure 1. High-altitude view of the project location showing distance from Atlantic Ocean.



Figure 2. Mid-altitude view of project location along Horry County-Marion County Line.

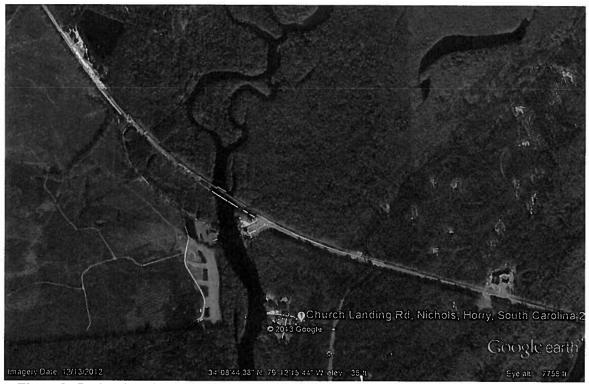


Figure 3. Project location alongside the existing SR-917 bridge over the Little Pee Dee River.

Two species of sturgeon (shortnose and Atlantic) could be present in or near the project area and may be affected by the project. However, we believe these species are unlikely to be adversely affected. Shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon of all life stages are unlikely to be present or use the Little Pee Dee

River for spawning because of the project distance from the mainstem of the Pee Dee River (where their presence has been documented). Previous scientific surveys have never documented sturgeon of either species in the Little Pee Dee River, despite significant survey effort (B. Post, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), pers. comm. to E. Hawk, NMFS, April 5, 2013), though both species have been regularly encountered in the Pee Dee River. Telemetry studies conducted by SCDNR from 2001-2002 and 2010 to present have never encountered a tagged sturgeon at a sampling station approximately 30 miles downriver from the proposed bridge construction site. Based on past and present experience/knowledge, most sturgeon bypass the Little Pee Dee River and continue spawning migrations in the Great Pee Dee River (B. Post, SCDNR, pers. comm. e-mail to E. Hawk, NMFS, April 5, 2013). If either of these species are present in the action area, adverse impacts are extremely unlikely to occur because of the February 1-April 30 in-water moratorium that will be implemented by SCDOT to protect anadromous fishes, as well as the requirement to leave at least 50 percent of the river unobstructed to anadromous fish passage from January 1 through the end of April. Therefore, the risk of either of these species being affected by construction activity is discountable.

This concludes your ESA consultation responsibilities with NMFS for the proposed project. Consultation must be reinitiated if a take occurs or new information reveals effects of the action not previously considered, or the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.

We have enclosed additional information for your review on other statutory requirements that may apply to this action. Thank you for your assistance in the conservation of ESA-listed species and critical habitat. If you have any questions on this consultation, please contact Eric Hawk, consultation biologist, at (727) 551-5773, or by e-mail at Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D. Regional Administrator

Enc.: 1. Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions (Revised March 23, 2006)

2. PCTS Access and Additional Considerations for ESA Section 7 Consultations (Revised July 15, 2009)

cc: FriersonEW@dot.state.sc.us

File: 1514-22.F.2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505 http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69 A HAGOOD AVENUE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

September 24, 2014

RECEIVED

Regulatory Division

SEP 29 2014

Mr. Sean Connolly, Permitting Division Manager South Carolina Department of Transportation P.O. Box 191, 955 Park Street Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0191 MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC. COLUMBIA OFFICE

Dear Mr. Connolly:

This is in response to your letter of June 17, 2010, from your consultant requesting a wetland determination, on behalf of South Carolina Department of Transportation, for a 4585 acre tract, located along an approximately 44 mile long corridor for the Interstate I-73 project from I-95 to SC-22, in Dillon, Marion, and Horry Counties, South Carolina. The project area is depicted on the enclosed Map Book entitled "I-73 Map Book", dated January 17, 2014, and Plan sheets 1-34 of 34, entitled, "PIN 36358 RD01, Proposed Interstate 73, Wetland Delineation, Dillon, Marion, Horry Counties, S.C." dated June 2010 and revised January 7, 2014.

Based on an on-site inspection, a review of aerial photography, topographic maps, National Wetland Inventory maps and soil survey information and work associated with the previous Jurisdictional Determination for this project, it has been concluded that the boundaries shown on the referenced maps and plans are a reasonable approximation of the location and boundaries of the wetlands found on this site. The property in question contains approximately 45,792 linear feet and 619.13 acres of federally defined freshwater wetlands or other waters of the United States subject to the jurisdiction of this office. However, you are cautioned that this delineation is approximate, subject to change, and should be used for planning purposes only. This office should be contacted prior to performing any work in or around these approximated wetlands or other waters of the United States. In order for a more accurate delineation to be provided, these areas should be located and marked on-site, and surveyed and platted on a map (in order for the wetland line to be reproduced in the future based solely on the platted map). Upon receipt of such a plat, this office can then issue a letter verifying the accuracy of the actual jurisdictional boundaries. You should also be aware that the areas identified as wetlands or other waters of the United States may be subject to restrictions or requirements of other state or local government entities.

In addition, the property in question contains approximately 26.62 acres of federally defined freshwater wetlands as defined by the 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual; however, they are not considered to be subject to the jurisdiction of this office due to decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and, as such, Department of the Army authorization will not be required for mechanized land clearing, excavation, or the placement of dredged or fill material on this site. The location and configuration of these areas are reflected on the maps and plans referenced above. It should be clearly noted that decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court to exclude certain waters and wetlands from federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act has no effect on any state or local government restrictions or requirements concerning aquatic

resources, including wetlands. You are strongly cautioned to ascertain whether such restrictions or requirements exist for the area in question before undertaking any activity which might destroy or otherwise impact these wetland resources.

Please note that the actual boundary of wetlands is approximate and, therefore, is subject to change and not appealable; however, the determination of jurisdiction over these wetlands is final and this approved jurisdictional determination is an appealable action under the Corps of Engineers administrative appeal procedures defined at 33 CFR 331. The administrative appeal options, process and appeals request form is attached for your convenience and use. If a permit application is forthcoming as a result of this delineation, a copy of this letter, as well as the verified maps and plans should be submitted as part of the application. Otherwise, a delay could occur in confirming that a delineation was performed for the permit project area.

Please be advised that this determination is valid for five (5) years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the delineation before the expiration date. All actions concerning this determination must be complete within this time frame, or an additional determination and delineation must be conducted.

This delineation/determination has been conducted to identify the limits of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This delineation/determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, prior to starting work.

In future correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to SAC 2007-1331-DJS. You may still need state or local assent. Prior to performing any work, you should contact the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to them for their information.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Stephen Brumagin at 803-253-3445.

Sincerely,

Travis G. Hughes Chief, Special Projects Branch

Enclosures: Approved Jurisdictional Determination Form (on DVD) Notification of Appeal Options

Copy Furnished:

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Baker Corporation Mr. Gordon Murphy 700 Huger Street Columbia, South Carolina 29250