

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1835 Assembly Street Room 865 B-1 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

OCT 31 2016

Regulatory Division

Mr. Greg Mixon Office of Environmental Programs South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Post Office Box 167 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. Mixon:

This is in regard to an application for a Department of the Army permit (SAC-2011-1356) by the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company for an environmental cleanup project on the Congaree River just south of the Gervais Street Bridge in the City of Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.

The project was originally put on public notice on August 23, 2013, and proposed impacts included the construction of a 60' X 3990' temporary cofferdam in the Congaree River in three phases over a three year period. The applicant proposed to dewater the area and remove 27,000 cubic yards of Tar-Like Material (TLM) comingled with sediment by using a combination of physical methods which include excavation, dredging, vacuuming, and hand shoveling.

The applicant received a letter dated August 16, 2016, from Lucus Berresford, State Remediation Section, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, stating "In light of the 2015 flooding event and its impacts to the Congaree River, as well as the constraints with excavation of sediment from the Congaree River, the Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) has reevaluated the alternatives from the 2013 Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for cleanup of the tar like material (TLM) in the Congaree River. Based on current conditions, and the ability to obtain proper permits and safely conduct a removal action without adverse impacts to human health and the environment, the Department is requesting SCE&G pursue EE/CA Alternative 3 – Sediment Capping and Institutional controls instead of the removal alternative previously envisioned..."

In order to comply with this state mandate, the applicant has abandoned the previous design and has revised the project to include the placement of articulated concrete blocks to encapsulate the TLM in the near shore area where the potential for human contact and erosion is greater. The revised project will impact 900.0 linear feet and 2.3 acres of the Congaree River. The applicant has stated that construction will be limited to May 1st through October 31st as previously recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to reduce impacts to the Shortnose Sturgeon.

The Corps plans to authorize this project under Nationwide Permit 38, Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Please review the attached information on the revised project and provide me with your comments by December 2, 2016. If no response is received by that date, I

will assume that your agency's concerns have been satisfied and that you have no further objections to permit issuance.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Chip Ridgeway at 803-253-3906.

Respectfully,

Brice McKoy

Northwest Branch, Chief

Enclosure









