

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

July 16, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO:

Mr. Richard E. Greene, Jr., PE

FROM:

Philip S. Harris, III, P.E., Unit Head
Natural Environment Unit
Project Dave¹ Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

SUBJECT:

Johnston County, Replace Bridge No.89 on SR 1162 over Sassarixa Swamp; T.I.P. Number B-4165; Federal Aid Project No. BRZ-1162(5); State Project 8.231330

Attached are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit Number 33, the N.C. Division of Water Quality Section 401 General Water Quality Certification and the Riparian Buffer Authorization for the above referenced project. All environmental permits have been received for the construction of this project.

PSH/gyb

Attachment

Cc:

Mr. Majed Alghandour, P. E., Programming and TIP

Mr. Jay Bennett, P.E., Roadway Design

Dr. David Chang, P.E., Hydraulics

Mr. Randy Garris, P.E. State Contract Officer

Mr. Art McMillan, P.E., Highway Design

Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E., Structure Design

Mr. Mark Staley, Roadside Environmental

Mr. John F. Sullivan, FHWA

Ms. Beth Harmon, EEP

Mr. Rob Hanson, P.E., PDEA Eastern Region Unit Head

Mr. Jamie Guerrero, Division Environmental Officer

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Johnston County
Bridge No. 89- on SR 1162
Over Sassarixa Swamp
Federal Aid Project No. BRZ-1162 (5)
State Project No. 8.231330
WBS No. 33513.1.1
T.I.P Project No. B-4165

Commitments Developed Through Project Development

Neuse Buffer Rules

The proposed bridge replacement is in the Neuse River Basin. According to 15A NCAC 2B.0233 of the Neuse Riparian Buffer Protection Rules the proposed bridge replacement project is considered to be allowable (without mitigation) under the Neuse Buffer Rules since replacing the bridge in place and using an off-site detour was selected as the Preferred Alternative. Consultation with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWG) would be necessary to ultimately determine if the project would be allowable (without mitigation) under the Neuse Buffer Rules.

Commitments Developed Through Permitting

There are no additional special commitments for this project.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

July 14, 2008

To:

File

From:

Veronica Barnes, Environmental Specialist

Subject:

B-4165 Section 404 Permit by Default

The Section 404 permit for this project has been issued by default, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review time period has exceeded 45 days (per Nationwide Permit General Condition number 27). Therefore, NCDOT must comply with all conditions, descriptions, and mitigation allowance in the attached permit application dated 4/25/2008, Pre-Construction Notification Form, Permit Drawings, 404 General Conditions, 401 Standard Conditions and Ecosystem Enhancement Program mitigation acceptance letter. A permit modification will be required if any of the above conditions, descriptions, and mitigation allowances cannot be met.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

April 25, 2008

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Field Office Post Office Box 1000 Washington, NC 27889-1000

ATTN: Mr. William Wescott

NCDOT Coordinator

Dear Sir:

Subject:

Application for Section 404 Nationwide Permit 33, Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and Neuse Riparian Buffer Authorization for the Replacement of Bridge No. 89 over Sassarixa Swamp on SR 1162, Johnston County; State Project No. 8.2313301; TIP No. B-4165. Debit \$240 from WBS 33513.1.1.

Please find enclosed permit drawings, roadway plans, and a Pre-construction Notice (PCN) for the above referenced project proposed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). A Categorical Exclusion (CE) was completed for this project on April 11, 2006, and distributed shortly thereafter. Additional copies are available upon request.

The NCDOT proposes to replace existing Bridge No. 89 over Sassarixa Swamp on SR 1162 in Johnston County. The project involves replacing the existing 70-foot bridge on the existing location, with a three-span bridge approximately 136 feet long. Traffic will be maintained with an off-site detour during construction. Proposed permanent impacts to surface waters will be less than 0.01 acre. Proposed temporary impacts to surface waters will be 0.02 acre.

Impacts to Waters of the United States

General Description: Sassarixa Swamp and the surrounding wetlands are the only water resources within the project area and are located in the Neuse River Drainage Basin, Subbasin 03-04-04. Sassarixa Swamp [Stream Index No. 27-45-13] has been assigned a Best Usage Classification of C; NSW by the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) and is in Hydrologic Unit 03020201. Sassarixa Swamp is not designated as a North Carolina Natural or Scenic River, or as a National Wild and Scenic River. No designated High Quality Waters (HQW), Water Supply I (WS-I), or Water Supply II (WS-II) waters occur within 1.0 mile of the project study area. Finally, Sassarixa Swamp is not listed on the Final 2006 303(d) list of impaired waters, nor does it drain into any Section 303(d) waters within 1.0 mile of the project study area.

RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

TELEPHONE: 919-733-3141 FAX: 919-715-1501

LOCATION: TRANSPORTATION BUILDING 1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET RALEIGH NC

WEBSITE: WWW.DOH.DOT.STATE.NC.US

<u>Permanent Impacts:</u> NCDOT anticipates permanent impacts to surface waters for this project. Permanent impacts to surface waters due to two interior bents will be less than 0.01 acre. No impacts are proposed to jurisdictional wetlands.

<u>Temporary Impacts</u>: NCDOT anticipates temporary impacts to surface waters. Proposed temporary impacts to surface waters will be 0.02 acre due to a temporary work pad. No impacts are proposed to jurisdictional wetlands.

Hand Clearing: There will be 0.01 acre of hand clearing in jurisdictional areas for this project.

Utility Impacts: There will be no stream or wetland impacts due to utilities for this project.

<u>Bridge Demolition</u>: The existing structure is approximately 70 feet long and 25 feet wide. The superstructure consists of two 17.8-foot spans and two 17.0 foot spans of reinforced concrete deck on timber joists. The existing substructure consists of timber caps on timber piles. It is likely that all components can be removed without any appreciable debris falling into the water.

Neuse River Basin Buffer Rules

This project is located in the Neuse River Basin; therefore, the regulations pertaining to the buffer rules apply. There will be a total of 5,809 ft² of impacts to riparian buffers. This includes 3,573 ft² (3,168 ft² in Zone 1 and 405 ft² in Zone 2) due to the bridge crossing. According to the buffer rules, bridges are allowable. There will be 2,236 ft² (880 ft² in Zone 1 and 1,365 ft² in Zone 2) of impacts from approach fill due to road crossings. This Road Crossing activity is allowable because impacts are less than the 150-foot/0.3 acre threshold, for which mitigation is required. Uses designated as allowable may proceed within the riparian buffer provided that there are no practical alternatives to the requested use pursuant to Item (8) of this rule. In addition, there will be 332 ft² of impacts to Zone 1 due to water line installation. These Utility impacts are considered exempt according to the buffer rules because the impacts are less than 10 feet wide.

Federally Protected Species

As of January 31, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists four protected species for Johnston County (Table 1). The biological conclusions for all species remain valid. Concurrence was received from the USFWS on April 16, 2007. Due to the poor quality of mussel habitat in the area, USFWS has not required any further surveys. A copy of this concurrence letter is included with this application.

Table 1. Federally protected species of Johnston County.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Biological Conclusion
Picoides borealis	Red-cockaded woodpecker	Endangered	No Effect
Alasmidonta heterodon	Dwarf wedgemussel	Endangered	MANLAA
Elliptio steinstansana	Tar River spinymussel	Endangered	MANLAA
Rhus michauxii	Michaux's sumac	Endangered	No Effect

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species List as of August 8, 2007. It is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. A survey conducted on June 11, 2004 found no bald eagle nests or foraging habitat within 660 feet of the project area.

Avoidance and Minimization

Avoidance examines all appropriate and practicable possibilities of averting impacts to "Waters of the United States". Due to the presence of surface waters and wetlands within the project study area, avoidance of all impacts is not possible. The NCDOT is committed to incorporating all reasonable and practicable design features to avoid and minimize jurisdictional impacts. Minimization measures incorporated as part of the project design included:

- Reducing the number of bents in the water from three for the existing bridge to two for the new bridge,
- Using hand-clearing methods in wetlands outside of the slope limits instead of clearing and grubbing,
- In compliance with 15A NCAC 02B.0104(m) the NCDOT has incorporated the use of BMP's for the Protection of Surface Water in the design of the project,
- Use of an off-site detour during construction,
- Construction of a 65-foot longer bridge,
- Minimizing impacts to the buffer zone by using the existing alignment,
- Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds will be utilized during demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.

Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for this project due to the limited permanent impacts to Sassarixa Swamp.

Project Schedule

The project schedule calls for a November 18, 2008 let with a review date of September 30, 2008.

Regulatory Approvals

Section 404 Permit: All aspects of this project are being processed by the Federal Highway Administration as a "Categorical Exclusion" in accordance with 23 CFR 771.115(b). The NCDOT requests that these activities be authorized by a Nationwide Permit 33 for the temporary work pad. (72 CFR; 11092-11198, March 12, 2007).

Section 401 Water Quality Certification: We anticipate 401 General Certification number 3688 will apply to this project. All general conditions of the Water Quality Certifications will be met. Therefore, in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H, Section .0500(a), we are providing five copies of this application to the NCDWQ for their review and approval. Authorization to debit the \$240 Permit Application Fee from WBS Element 33513.1.1 is hereby given.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this project. Please contact Ms. Veronica Barnes at vabarnes@dot.state.nc.us or (919) 715-7232 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely

Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D.,

Environmental Management Director

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

Cc:

W/attachment

Mr. Brian Wrenn, NCDWQ (5 Copies)

Mr. Travis Wilson, NCWRC

Mr. Gary Jordan, USFWS

Mr. Ron Sechler, NMFS

Ms. Jeanne Hardy, NCDMF

W/o attachment (see website for attachments)

Dr. David Chang, P.E., Hydraulics

Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E., Structure Design

Mr. Victor Barbour, P.E., Project Services Unit

Mr. Mark Staley, Roadside Environmental

Mr. Richard E. Greene, P.E. Div. 4 Engineer

Mr. Chad Coggins, Div. 4 Environmental Officer

Mr. Scott McLendon, USACE, Wilmington

Mr. Jay Bennett, P.E., Roadway Design

Mr. Majed Alghandour, P. E., Programming and TIP

Mr. Art McMillan, P.E., Highway Design

Mr. Vince Rhea, P.E., PDEA Engineer

Office	Us	e Only:		Form Version March 05
USAC	E A	Action ID No.		DWQ No
		(If any particular item is not a	applicable to this project	t, please enter "Not Applicable" or "N/A".)
I.	Pr	ocessing		
	1.	Check all of the approval ☐ Section 404 Permit ☐ Section 10 Permit ☐ 401 Water Quality Ce		
	2.	Nationwide, Regional or 0	General Permit Num	aber(s) Requested: 33
	3.	If this notification is solel is not required, check here	y a courtesy copy be:	ecause written approval for the 401 Certification
	4.	If payment into the North for mitigation of impacts and check here:	Carolina Ecosyster, attach the acceptan	m Enhancement Program (NCEEP) is proposed nce letter from NCEEP, complete section VIII,
	5.	4), and the project is wi	thin a North Carol	rolina's twenty coastal counties (listed on page ina Division of Coastal Management Area of for further details), check here:
II.	Ap	oplicant Information		
	1.	Owner/Applicant Informa Name: Mailing Address:	Gregory J. Thorpe,	Ph.D., Environmental Management Director Center
		Telephone Number: (919) E-mail Address: vabarne		Fax Number: (919) 733-9794
	2.	must be attached if the Ag Name: Company Affiliation:	ent has signatory au	dated copy of the Agent Authorization letter thority for the owner/applicant.)
		Telephone Number:E-mail Address:		Fax Number:

III. Project Information

Attach a **vicinity map** clearly showing the location of the property with respect to local landmarks such as towns, rivers, and roads. Also provide a detailed **site plan** showing property boundaries and development plans in relation to surrounding properties. Both the vicinity map and site plan must include a scale and north arrow. The specific footprints of all buildings, impervious surfaces, or other facilities must be included. If possible, the maps and plans should include the appropriate USGS Topographic Quad Map and NRCS Soil Survey with the property boundaries outlined. Plan drawings, or other maps may be included at the applicant's discretion, so long as the property is clearly defined. For administrative and distribution purposes, the USACE requires information to be submitted on sheets no larger than 11 by 17-inch format; however, DWQ may accept paperwork of any size. DWQ prefers full-size construction drawings rather than a sequential sheet version of the full-size plans. If full-size plans are reduced to a small scale such that the final version is illegible, the applicant will be informed that the project has been placed on hold until decipherable maps are provided.

1.	Name of project: Replacement of Bridge No. 89 over Sassarixa Swamp on SR 1162, Johnston County
	Joiniston County
2.	T.I.P. Project Number or State Project Number (NCDOT Only): B-4165
3.	Property Identification Number (Tax PIN): N/A
4.	Location
	County: Johnston Nearest Town: Four Oaks
	Subdivision name (include phase/lot number): N/A
	Directions to site (include road numbers/names, landmarks, etc.): Take I-40 to exit 319, NC
	210. Take NC 210 headed east for approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto Lassiter Rd. Take
	Lassiter Rd until it dead ends into Black Creek Rd. Turn left onto Black Creek Rd. Bridge 89
	is located on Black Creek Rd just past the intersection with Sedgewood Rd.
5.	Site coordinates (For linear projects, such as a road or utility line, attach a sheet that separately lists the coordinates for each crossing of a distinct waterbody.) Decimal Degrees (6 digits minimum): 35.478517 °N 78.446664 °W
6.	Property size (acres): N/A
7.	Name of nearest receiving body of water: Black Creek
8.	River Basin: Neuse
	(Note - this must be one of North Carolina's seventeen designated major river basins. The
	River Basin map is available at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/maps/ .)
9.	Describe the existing conditions on the site and general land use in the vicinity of the project at the time of this application: Land use in the area is mostly low density housing and forested land.

- 10. Describe the overall project in detail, including the type of equipment to be used:

 The existing superstructure consists of a 4-span bridge with a concrete surface on timber joists. The existing substructure consists of timber piles with timber caps. The project involves replacing the old bridge on the existing location with a new three span bridge approximately 136 feet long. Traffic will be detoured off-site during construction. Standard NCDOT construction equipment will be used.
- 11. Explain the purpose of the proposed work: The current bridge has a sufficiency rating of 7 out of 100 and a structure apprasial of 2 out of 9. It is therefore considered structurally deficient by the Federal Highway Administration standards and rehabilitation is not feasible due to the bridge's age and condition.

IV. Prior Project History

If jurisdictional determinations and/or permits have been requested and/or obtained for this project (including all prior phases of the same subdivision) in the past, please explain. Include the USACE Action ID Number, DWQ Project Number, application date, and date permits and certifications were issued or withdrawn. Provide photocopies of previously issued permits, certifications or other useful information. Describe previously approved wetland, stream and buffer impacts, along with associated mitigation (where applicable). If this is a NCDOT project, list and describe permits issued for prior segments of the same T.I.P. project, along with construction schedules. A jurisdictional determination packet was received and reviewed in June 2006 under the Action ID SAW 200632962. The Categorical Exclusion was received in October 2006 under Action ID SAW 2004 11047.

V. Future Project Plans

Are any future permit requests anticipated for this project? If so, describe the anticipated work, and provide justification for the exclusion of this work from the current application. No future permit requests are anticipated for this project.

VI. Proposed Impacts to Waters of the United States/Waters of the State

It is the applicant's (or agent's) responsibility to determine, delineate and map all impacts to wetlands, open water, and stream channels associated with the project. Each impact must be listed separately in the tables below (e.g., culvert installation should be listed separately from riprap dissipater pads). Be sure to indicate if an impact is temporary. All proposed impacts, permanent and temporary, must be listed, and must be labeled and clearly identifiable on an accompanying site plan. All wetlands and waters, and all streams (intermittent and perennial) should be shown on a delineation map, whether or not impacts are proposed to these systems. Wetland and stream evaluation and delineation forms should be included as appropriate. Photographs may be included at the applicant's discretion. If this proposed impact is strictly for

wetland or stream mitigation, list and describe the impact in Section VIII below. If additional space is needed for listing or description, please attach a separate sheet.

1. Provide a written description of the proposed impacts: There are no proposed permanent or temporary impacts to wetlands. There are <0.01 acre of proposed permanent impacts and 0.02 acre of temporary impacts to streams. Impacts to riparian buffer total 5,809 square feet

2. Individually list wetland impacts. Types of impacts include, but are not limited to mechanized clearing, grading, fill, excavation, flooding, ditching/drainage, etc. For dams,

separately list impacts due to both structure and flooding.

Wetland Impact Site Number (indicate on map) N/A	Type of Impact	Type of Wetland (e.g., forested, marsh, herbaceous, bog, etc.)	Located within 100-year Floodplain (yes/no)	Distance to Nearest Stream (linear feet)	Area of Impact (acres)
	Total	Wetland Impact (acres)			0

3. List the total acreage (estimated) of all existing wetlands on the property: 1.55

4. Individually list all intermittent and perennial stream impacts. Be sure to identify temporary impacts. Stream impacts include, but are not limited to placement of fill or culverts, dam construction, flooding, relocation, stabilization activities (e.g., cement walls, rip-rap, crib walls, gabions, etc.), excavation, ditching/straightening, etc. If stream relocation is proposed, plans and profiles showing the linear footprint for both the original and relocated streams

must be included. To calculate acreage, multiply length X width, then divide by 43,560.

Stream Impact Number (indicate on map)	Stream Name	Type of Impact	Perennial or Intermittent?	Average Stream Width Before Impact	Impact Length (linear feet)	Area of Impact (acres)
1	Sassarixa Swamp	Permanent fill	Perennial	45 ft	N/A	<0.01
2	Sassarixa Swamp	Temporary fill	Perennial	45 ft.	N/A	0.02
	Total Stream Im	pact (by length and a	creage)		N/A	0.02

5. Individually list all open water impacts (including lakes, ponds, estuaries, sounds, Atlantic Ocean and any other water of the U.S.). Open water impacts include, but are not limited to

fill, excavation, dredging, flooding, drainage, bulkheads, etc.

	ration, areaging, moot	mg, aramago, ounti	iouds, oto.	
Open Water Impact Site Number (indicate on map)	Name of Waterbody (if applicable)	Type of Impact	Type of Waterbody (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)	Area of Impact (acres)
N/A				
	Total Ope	n Water Impact (acres)		0

6. List the cumulative impact to all Waters of the U.S. resulting from the project:

Stream Impact (acres):	0.02
Wetland Impact (acres):	0
Open Water Impact (acres):	0
Total Impact to Waters of the U.S. (acres)	0.02
Total Stream Impact (linear feet):	N/A

7.	Isolated Waters Do any isolated waters exist on the property? Yes No Describe all impacts to isolated waters, and include the type of water (wetland or stream) and the size of the proposed impact (acres or linear feet). Please note that this section only applies to waters that have specifically been determined to be isolated by the USACE.				
8.	Pond Creation				
	If construction of a pond is proposed, associated wetland and stream impacts should be included above in the wetland and stream impact sections. Also, the proposed pond should be described here and illustrated on any maps included with this application. Pond to be created in (check all that apply): uplands stream wetlands Describe the method of construction (e.g., dam/embankment, excavation, installation of draw-down valve or spillway, etc.): N/A				
	Proposed use or purpose of pond (e.g., livestock watering, irrigation, aesthetic, trout pond, local stormwater requirement, etc.): N/A				

Expected pond surface area: N/A

VII. Impact Justification (Avoidance and Minimization)

Size of watershed draining to pond: N/A

Current land use in the vicinity of the pond: N/A

Specifically describe measures taken to avoid the proposed impacts. It may be useful to provide information related to site constraints such as topography, building ordinances, accessibility, and financial viability of the project. The applicant may attach drawings of alternative, lower-impact site layouts, and explain why these design options were not feasible. Also discuss how impacts were minimized once the desired site plan was developed. If applicable, discuss construction techniques to be followed during construction to reduce impacts.

NCDOT has minimized impacts to the fullest extent possible. Minimization measures incorporated as part of the project design included reducing the number of bents in the water from three for the existing bridge to two for the new bridge, using hand-clearing methods in wetlands outside of the slope limits instead of clearing and grubbing, incorporating the use of BMP's for the Protection of Surface Water in the design of the project in compliance with 15A NCAC 02B.0104(m) the NCDOT, use of an off-site detour during construction, construction of a 65-foot longer bridge, minimizing impacts to the buffer zone by using the existing alignment, utilizing Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds during demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge.

VIII. Mitigation

DWQ - In accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .0500, mitigation may be required by the NC Division of Water Quality for projects involving greater than or equal to one acre of impacts to freshwater wetlands or greater than or equal to 150 linear feet of total impacts to perennial streams.

USACE – In accordance with the Final Notice of Issuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits, published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2002, mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal. Factors including size and type of proposed impact and function and relative value of the impacted aquatic resource will be considered in determining acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation as proposed. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland and/or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferable in the same watershed.

If mitigation is required for this project, a copy of the mitigation plan must be attached in order for USACE or DWQ to consider the application complete for processing. Any application lacking a required mitigation plan or NCEEP concurrence shall be placed on hold as incomplete. An applicant may also choose to review the current guidelines for stream restoration in DWQ's Draft Technical Guide for Stream Work in North Carolina, available at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/strmgide.html.

1. Provide a brief description of the proposed mitigation plan. The description should provide as much information as possible, including, but not limited to: site location (attach directions and/or map, if offsite), affected stream and river basin, type and amount (acreage/linear feet) of mitigation proposed (restoration, enhancement, creation, or preservation), a plan view, preservation mechanism (e.g., deed restrictions, conservation easement, etc.), and a description of the current site conditions and proposed method of construction. Please attach a separate sheet if more space is needed.

N/A

2. Mitigation may also be made by payment into the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP). Please note it is the applicant's responsibility to contact the NCEEP at (919) 715-0476 to determine availability, and written approval from the NCEEP indicating that they are will to accept payment for the mitigation must be attached to this form. For additional information regarding the application process for the NCEEP, check the NCEEP website at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/wrp/index.htm. If use of the NCEEP is proposed, please check the appropriate box on page five and provide the following information:

Amount of stream mitigation requested (linear feet): 0	
Amount of buffer mitigation requested (square feet): 0	
Amount of Riparian wetland mitigation requested (acres): 0	
Amount of Non-riparian wetland mitigation requested (acres): 0	
Amount of Coastal wetland mitigation requested (acres): 0	_

IX.	Environmental	Documentation	(required	by DWQ)
-----	---------------	---------------	-----------	---------

X.

1.	Does the project involve an expenditure of public (federal/state/local) funds or the use of public (federal/state) land? Yes No
2.	If yes, does the project require preparation of an environmental document pursuant to the requirements of the National or North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/SEPA)? Note: If you are not sure whether a NEPA/SEPA document is required, call the SEPA coordinator at (919) 733-5083 to review current thresholds for environmental documentation. Yes No
3.	If yes, has the document review been finalized by the State Clearinghouse? If so, please attach a copy of the NEPA or SEPA final approval letter. Yes No
Pr	oposed Impacts on Riparian and Watershed Buffers (required by DWQ)
req jus and ma Re	is the applicant's (or agent's) responsibility to determine, delineate and map all impacts to quired state and local buffers associated with the project. The applicant must also provide stification for these impacts in Section VII above. All proposed impacts must be listed herein, d must be clearly identifiable on the accompanying site plan. All buffers must be shown on a sp, whether or not impacts are proposed to the buffers. Correspondence from the DWQ gional Office may be included as appropriate. Photographs may also be included at the plicant's discretion.
1.	Will the project impact protected riparian buffers identified within 15A NCAC 2B .0233 (Neuse), 15A NCAC 2B .0259 (Tar-Pamlico), 15A NCAC 02B .0243 (Catawba) 15A NCAC 2B .0250 (Randleman Rules and Water Supply Buffer Requirements), or other (please identify
2.	If "yes", identify the square feet and acreage of impact to each zone of the riparian buffers. If buffer mitigation is required calculate the required amount of mitigation by applying the buffer multipliers.

Zone*	Impact (square feet)	Multiplier	Required Mitigation
1	3,573	3 (2 for Catawba)	0
2	2,236	1.5	0
Total	5,809		0

^{*} Zone 1 extends out 30 feet perpendicular from the top of the near bank of channel; Zone 2 extends an additional 20 feet from the edge of Zone 1.

3. If buffer mitigation is required, please discuss what type of mitigation is proposed (i.e., Donation of Property, Riparian Buffer Restoration / Enhancement, or Payment into the Riparian Buffer Restoration Fund). Please attach all appropriate information as identified within 15A NCAC 2B .0242 or .0244, or .0260. N/A

Stormwater (required by DWQ)		
Describe impervious acreage (existing and proposed) versus total acreage on the site. Discuss stormwater controls proposed in order to protect surface waters and wetlands downstream from the property. If percent impervious surface exceeds 20%, please provide calculations demonstrating total proposed impervious level. N/A		
Sewage Disposal (required by DWQ)		
Clearly detail the ultimate treatment methods and disposition (non-discharge or discharge) of wastewater generated from the proposed project, or available capacity of the subject facility. N/A		
Violations (required by DWQ)		
Is this site in violation of DWQ Wetland Rules (15A NCAC 2H .0500) or any Buffer Rules? Yes No		
Is this an after-the-fact permit application? Yes \(\square \) No \(\square \)		
Cumulative Impacts (required by DWQ)		
Will this project (based on past and reasonably anticipated future impacts) result in additional development, which could impact nearby downstream water quality? Yes No If yes, please submit a qualitative or quantitative cumulative impact analysis in accordance with the most recent North Carolina Division of Water Quality policy posted on our website at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands . If no, please provide a short narrative description: The project is a relatively small bridge in a residential area. There will be no new road created and no additional lanes added, therefore it is unlikely to attract development.		
Other Circumstances (Optional):		
It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the application sufficiently in advance of desired construction dates to allow processing time for these permits. However, an applicant may choose to list constraints associated with construction or sequencing that may impose limits on work schedules (e.g., draw-down schedules for lakes, dates associated with Endangered and Threatened Species, accessibility problems, or other issues outside of the applicant's control). N/A		

Applicant/Agent's Signature (Agent's signature is valid only if an authorization letter from the applicant is provided.)

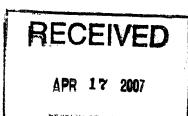
4.23,08



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Raleigh Field Office Post Office Box 33726 Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

April 16, 2007



Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D. North Carolina Department of Transportation Project Development and Environmental Analysis 1598 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Dear Dr. Thorpe:

This letter is in response to your letter of April 11, 2007 which provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with the biological determination of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) that the replacement of Bridge No. 89 on SR 1162 over Sassarixa Swamp in Johnston County (TIP No. B-4165) may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) and Tar spinymussel (*Elliptio steinstansana*). In addition, NCDOT has determined that the proposed project will have no effect on the federally protected bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*). These comments are provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

According to information provided, a mussel survey was conducted at the project site on March 22, 2007. The survey extended 50 meters upstream and 400 meters downstream of SR 1162. Neither of the federally listed mussels was observed, and habitat quality for the two species was not suitable upstream of the bridge. Only one mussel, an eastern elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*) was observed during the survey.

According to the previously provided Federal Categorical Exclusion, a plant survey was conducted within suitable habitat for Michaux's sumac on June 11, 2004. No specimens of Michaux's sumac were observed.

Based on the mussel survey results and other available information, the Service concurs with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the dwarf wedgemussel and Tar spinymussel. Based on the plant survey and other available information, the Service concurs with your determination that the proposed project will have no effect on Michaux's sumac. Also, due to the lack of habitat, the Service concurs with your determination that the project will have no effect on the bald eagle and red-cockaded woodpecker. We believe that the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied. We remind you that obligations under section 7 consultation must be reconsidered if: (1) new

information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered in this review; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by this identified action.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact Mr. Gary Jordan at (919) 856-4520 (Ext. 32).

William Wescott, USACE, Washington, NC cc: Rob Ridings, NCDWQ, Raleigh, NC Travis Wilson, NCWRC, Creedmoor, NC Chris Militscher, USEPA, Raleigh, NC John Sullivan, FHWA, Raleigh, NC David Harris, NCDOT, Raleigh, NC

NATIONWIDE PERMIT 33

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FINAL NOTICE OF ISSUANCE AND MODIFICATION OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS
FEDERAL REGISTER
AUTHORIZED MARCH 18, 2002

Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering: Temporary structures, work and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites; provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), or for other construction activities not subject to the Corps or USCG regulations. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must be of materials, and placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if it is determined by the District Engineer that it will not cause more than minimal adverse effects on aquatic resources. Temporary fill must be entirely removed to upland areas, or dredged material returned to its original location, following completion of the construction activity, and the affected areas must be restored to the pre-project conditions. Cofferdams cannot be used to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas so as to change their use. Structures left in place after cofferdams are removed require a section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (See 33 CFR part 322). The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with the "Notification" general condition. The notification must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources. The District Engineer will add special conditions, where necessary, to ensure environmental adverse effects is minimal. Such conditions may include: Limiting the temporary work to the minimum necessary; requiring seasonal restrictions; modifying the restoration plan; and requiring alternative construction methods (e.g., construction mats in wetlands where practicable.). (Sections 10 and 404)

NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following General Conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by a NWP to be valid:

- 1. Navigation. No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- 2. Proper Maintenance. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
- 3. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
- 4. Aquatic Life Movements. No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.
- 5. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- 6. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions. The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
- 7. Wild and Scenic Rivers. No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially designated by Congress as a 'study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status; unless the appropriate Federal agency, with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation, or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
- 8. Tribal Rights. No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.
 - 9. Water Quality.

- a. In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).
- b. For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWPs).

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.

10. Coastal Zone Management. In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).

11. Endangered Species.

- a. No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. Non-federal permittees shall notify the District Engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or is located in the designated critical habitat and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the District Engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWPs.
- b. Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the USFWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the USFWS and NMFS or their World Wide

Web pages at http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/endspp.html and http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/protres/overview/es.html respectively.

12. Historic Properties. No activity that may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

13. Notification.

- a. Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the District Engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the notification is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the District Engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:
- 1. Until notified in writing by the District Engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the District or Division Engineer; or
- 2. If notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or
- 3. Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).
- b. Contents of Notification: The notification must be in writing and include the following information:
 - 1. Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

- 2. Location of the proposed project;
- 3. Brief description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);
- 4. For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));
- 5. For NWP 7 (Cutfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- 6. For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- 7. For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing;
- 8. For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;
 - 9. For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:
- i. Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;
- ii. A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;
- iii. A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring \1/4\-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than \1/4\-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current

method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));

- iv. A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;
- 10. For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:
- i. Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;
 - ii. A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
 - iii. Location of the dredged material disposal site;
- 11. For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;
- 12. For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;
- 13. For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- 14. For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent nontidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

- 15. For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- 16. For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);
- 17. For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and
- 18. For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.
- c. Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.
- d. District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the District Engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. The District Engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. If the District Engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the District Engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the District Engineer deems necessary. The District Engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee is required to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the District Engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation

plan. The District Engineer must review the plan within 45 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the District Engineer to be minimal, the District Engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP.

If the District Engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the District Engineer will notify the applicant either:

- 1. That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an Individual Permit;
- 2. that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or
- 3. that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the District Engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.
- e. Agency Coordination: The District Engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level.

For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than \1/2\-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the District Engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the District Engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the notification. The District Engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The District Engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.

- f. Wetland Delineations: Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than (\1/4\-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate.
- 14. Compliance Certification. Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:
- a. A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps authorization, including any general or specific conditions;
- b. A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and
 - c. The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.
- 15. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the US for the total project cannot exceed $\ 1/3\$ -acre).
- 16. Water Supply Intakes. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
- 17. Shellfish Beds. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.
- 18. Suitable Material. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free

from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the CWA).

- 19. Mitigation. The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.
- a. The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).
- b. Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.
- c. Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland impacts requiring a PCN, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.
- d. Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWPs. For example, \1/4\-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a,\3/4\acre loss of wetlands to a \1/2\-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, \1/2\-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a \1/2\-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.
- e. To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.
- f. Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic

environment or, a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the District Engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts.

- g. Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the "notification" may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.
- h. Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.
- 20. Spawning Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
- 21. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow.

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

- 22. Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.
 - 23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable

waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

- 24. Removal of Temporary Fills. Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.
- 25. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the District Engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The District Engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.
- a. Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWPs in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.
- b. For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with General Condition 13, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The District Engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.
- 26. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.
- a. Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.
- b. Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 44.
- c. The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
 - 27. Construction Period. For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the

project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project).

For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps.

For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date maybe requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- 1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of a NWP.
- 2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
- 3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
- 4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
- 5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

DEFINITIONS

<u>Best Management Practices (BMPs)</u>: BMPs are policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or nonstructural. A BMP policy may affect the limits on a development.

<u>Compensatory Mitigation</u>: For purposes of Section 10/404, compensatory mitigation is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts, which remain, after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

<u>Creation</u>: The establishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource where one did not formerly exist.

Enhancement: Activities conducted in existing wetlands or other aquatic resources that increase

one or more aquatic functions.

<u>Ephemeral Stream</u>: An ephemeral stream has *flowing* water only during and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runnoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

<u>Farm Tract</u>: A unit of contiguous land under one ownership that is operated as a farm or part of a farm.

<u>Flood Fringe</u>: That portion of the 100-year floodplain outside of the floodway (often referred to as "floodway fringe").

<u>Floodway</u>: The area regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed one foot as set by the National Flood Insurance Program) within the 100-year floodplain.

<u>Independent Utility</u>: A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete project in the Corps regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multiphase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

<u>Intermittent Stream</u>: An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

Loss of waters of the US: Waters of the US that include the filled area and other waters that are permanently adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent above-grade, at-grade, or below-grade fills that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the US is the threshold measurement of the impact to existing waters for determining whether a project may qualify for a NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and values. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the US temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to preconstruction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the US. Impacts to ephemeral waters are only not included in the acreage or linear foot measurements of loss of waters of the US or loss of stream bed, for the purpose of determining compliance with the threshold limits of the NWPs.

Non-tidal Wetland: An area that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation has

standing or flowing water for sufficient duration to establish an ordinary high water mark. Aquatic vegetation within the area of standing or flowing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. The term "open water" includes rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. For the purposes of the NWPs, this term does not include ephemeral waters.

<u>Perennial Stream</u>: A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for the most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

<u>Permanent Above-grade Fill</u>: A discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, that results in a substantial increase in ground elevation and permanently converts part or all of the waterbody to dry land. Structural fills authorized by NWPs 3, 25, 36, etc. are not included.

<u>Preservation</u>: The protection of ecologically important wetlands or other aquatic resources in perpetuity through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation may include protection of upland areas adjacent to wetlands as necessary to ensure protection and/or enhancement of the overall aquatic ecosystem.

<u>Restoration</u>: Re-establishment of wetland and/or other aquatic resource characteristics and function(s) at a site where they have ceased to exist, or exist in a substantially degraded state.

<u>Riffle and Pool Complex</u>: Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a course substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

Single and Complete Project: The term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers (see definition of independent utility). For linear projects, the "single and complete project" (i.e., a single and complete crossing) will apply to each crossing of a separate water of the US (i.e., a single waterbody) at that location. An exception is for linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations; each crossing is considered a single and complete project. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies.

<u>Stormwater Management</u>: Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

<u>Stormwater Management Facilities</u>: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and BMPs, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

<u>Stream Channelization</u>: The manipulation of a stream channel to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. Manipulation may include deepening, widening, straightening, armoring, or other activities that change the stream cross-section or other aspects of stream channel geometry to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. A channelized stream remains a water of the US, despite the modifications to increase the rate of water flow.

<u>Tidal Wetland</u>: A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the US) that is inundated by tidal waters. The definitions of a wetland and tidal waters can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b) and 33 CFR 328.3(f), respectively. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line) and are inundated by tidal waters two times per lunar month, during spring high tides.

<u>Vegetated Buffer</u>: A vegetated upland or wetland area next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other open waters, which separates the open water from developed areas, including agricultural land. Vegetated buffers provide a variety of aquatic habitat functions and values (e.g., aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, moderation of water temperature changes, and detritus for aquatic food webs) and help improve or maintain local water quality. A vegetated buffer can be established by maintaining an existing vegetated area or planting native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on land next to openwaters. Mowed lawns are not considered vegetated buffers because they provide little or no aquatic habitat functions and values. The establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers I a method of compensatory mitigation that can be used in conjunction with the restoration, creation, enhancement or preservation of aquatic habitats to ensure that activities authorized by NWPs result in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment. (See General Condition 19.)

<u>Vegetated Shallows</u>: Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

<u>Waterbody</u>: A waterbody is any area that in a normal year has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that evidence of an ordinary high water mark is established. Wetlands contiguous to the waterbody are considered part of the waterbody.

FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN THE WILMINGTON DISTRICT

- 1. Waters Excluded from NWP or Subject to Additional Notification Requirements:
 - a. The Corps identified waters that will be excluded from use of this NWP. These waters are:
- 1. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning area are prohibited during the period between February 15 and June 30, without prior written approval from NCDMF or NCWRC and the Corps.
- 2. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated as sturgeon spawning areas are prohibited during the period between February 1 and June 30, without prior written approval from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- b. The Corps identified waters that will be subject to additional notification requirements for activities authorized by this NWP. These waters are:
- 1. Prior to the use of any NWP in any of the following North Carolina designated waters, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant must furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions of the applicable Nationwide Permit. The North Carolina designated waters that require additional notification requirements are "Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORW) and "High Quality Waters" (HQW) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Inland Primary Nursery Areas" (IPNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission), or contiguous wetlands (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Primary Nursery Areas" (PNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries).
- 2. Applicants for any NWP in a designated "Area of Environmental Concern" (AEC) in the twenty (20) coastal counties of Eastern North Carolina covered by the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), must also obtain the required CAMA permit. Construction activities may not commence until a copy of the approved CAMA permit is furnished to the appropriate Wilmington District Regulatory Field Office (Wilmington Field Office P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington, NC 28402 or Washington Field Office P.O. Box 1000, Washington, NC 27889) for authorization to begin work.
- 3. Prior to the use of any NWP on a Barrier Island of North Carolina, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable Nationwide Permit.

4. Prior to the use of any NWP in a "Mountain or Piedmont Bog" of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP.

Note: The following wetland community types identified in the N.C. Natural Heritage Program document, "Classification of Natural communities of North Carolina (Michael P. Schafale and Alan S. Weakley, 1990), are subject to this regional condition.

Mountain Bogs

<u>Piedmont Bogs</u> Upland Depression Swamp Forest

Swamp Forest-Bog Complex Swamp Forest-Bog Complex (Spruce Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Northern Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Southern Subtype) Southern Appalachian Fen

5. Prior to the use of any NWP in Mountain Trout Waters within twenty-five (25) designated counties of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Notification will include a letter of comments and recommendations from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the location of work, a delineation of wetlands, a discussion of alternatives to working in the Mountain Trout Waters, why other alternatives were not selected, and a plan to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable adverse impacts to the Mountain Trout Waters. To facilitate coordination with the NCWRC, the proponent may provide a copy of the notification to the NCWRC concurrent with the notification to the District Engineer. The NCWRC will respond both to the proponent and directly to the Corps of Engineers.

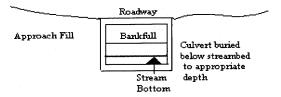
The twenty-five (25) designated counties are:

Alleghany	Ashe	Avery	Yancey
Buncombe	Burke	Caldwell	Wilkes
Cherokee	Clay	Graham	Swain
Haywood	Henderson	Jackson	Surry
Macon	Madison	McDowell	Stokes
Mitchell	Polk	Rutherford	
Transylvania	Watauga		

6. Applicants shall notify the NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section prior to dredging in or removing sediment from an area closed to shell fishing where the effluent may be released to an area open for shell fishing or swimming in order to avoid contamination of the disposal area and allow a temporary shellfish closure to be made. Any disposal of sand to the beach should occur between November 1 and April 30 when recreational usage is low. Only clean sand should be used and no dredged sand from closed shell fishing areas. If beach disposal was to occur at times other than stated above or if sand from a closed shell fishing area is to be used, a

swim advisory shall be posted and a press release shall be made. NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section must be notified before commencing this activity.

- 2. List of Final Corps Regional Modifications and Conditions for All Nationwide Permits
- a. Individual or multiple NWPs may not be used for activities that result in the cumulative loss or degradation of greater than 300 total linear feet of perennial streambed or intermittent streambed that exhibits important aquatic function(s).
- b. Prior to the use of any NWP (except 13, 27, and 39) for any activity that has more than a total of 150 total linear feet of perennial streambed impacts or intermittent streambed impacts (if the intermittent stream has important aquatic function), the applicant must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Compensatory mitigation is typically required for any impact that requires such notification. [Note: The Corps uses the Intermittent Channel Evaluation Form, located with Permit Information on the Regulatory Program Web Site, to aid in the determination of the intermittent channel stream status. Also, NWPs 13, 27 and 39 have specific reporting requirements.]
- c. For all Nationwide Permits which allow the use of concrete as a building material, measures will be taken to prevent live or fresh concrete, including bags of uncured concrete, from coming into contact with waters of the state until the concrete has hardened.
- d. For all Nationwide Permits that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters.
- e. For all NWPs that involve the construction of culverts, measures will be included in the construction that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. All culverts in the 20 CAMA coastal counties must be buried to a depth of one foot below the



bed of the stream or wetland. For all culvert construction activities, the dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream, (above and below a pipe or culvert), should not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream. Culvert inverts will be buried at least one foot below the bed of the stream for culverts greater than 48 inches in diameter. For culverts 48 inches in diameter or smaller, culverts must be buried below the bed of the stream to a depth equal to or greater than 20 percent of the diameter of the culvert. Bottomless arch culverts will satisfy this condition. A waiver from the depth specifications in this Regional Condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will only be issued if it can be demonstrated that the impacts of complying with this Regional Condition would result in more adverse impacts to the aquatic

environment.

3. Additional Regional Conditions Applicable to this Specific Nationwide Permit.

The required restoration plan must include a timetable for restoration activities.

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY GENERAL CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS

For the most recent General Certification conditions, call the NC Division of Water Quality, Wetlands/401 Certification Unit at (919) 733-1786 or access the following website:

http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/certs.html

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT STATE CONSISTENCY

Consistent.

Citations:

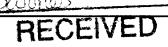
2002 Nationwide Permits - Federal Register Notice 15 Jan 2002

2002 Nationwide Permits Corrections - Federal Register Notice 13 Feb 2002

2002 Regional Conditions - Authorized 17 May 2002



Coleen Sullins, Director Division of Water Quality



MAY 29 2008

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PREA-OFFICE OF NATURAL ENVIRONN

May 22, 2008 Johnston County DWQ Project No. 20080814 Bridge 89 on SR 1162 TIP No. B-4165

APPROVAL of 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION and NEUSE BUFFER AUTHORIZATION, with ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Dr. Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D., Environmental Management Director NCDOT, PDEA 1598 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Dear Dr. Thorpe:

You have our approval, in accordance with the conditions listed below, for the following impacts for the purpose of replacing Bridge 89 in Johnston County:

Wetland Impacts in the Neuse River Basin

Site	Hand Clearing (ac)	Total Wetland Impact (ac)
1	0.01	0.01
Total	0.01	0.01

Total Wetland Impact for Project: 0.01 acres.

Open Water (Stream) Impacts in Neuse River Basin

Site	Permanent Fill in Open Waters (ac)	Temporary Fill in Open Waters (ac)	Total Fill in Open Waters (ac)				
1	0.01	0.02	0.03				
Total	0.01	0.02	0.03				

Total Open Water Impact for Project: 0.03 acres.

Neuse Riparian Buffer Impacts

Site	Zone 1 Impact (sq ft)	minus Wetlands in Zone 1 (sq ft)	= Zone 1 Buffers (not wetlands) (sq ft)	Zone 1 Buffer Mitigation Required (using 3:1 ratio)	· 医克里特氏 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Zone 2 Impact (sq ft)	minus Wetlands in Zone 2 (sq ft)	= Zone 2 Buffers (not wetlands) (sq ft)	Zone 2 Buffer Mitigation Required (using 1.5:1 ratio)
Bridge	3168	1194	1974	0		405	342	62	0
Road	880	0	880	N/A		1356	0	1356	0
Utility	332	0	332	0	i de de	0	0	0	0
Totals	4380	1194	3186	0		1761	342	1419	0

^{*} n/a = Total for Site is less than 1/3 acre and 150 linear feet of impact, no mitigation required

Total Buffer Impact for Project: 6,141 square feet.



Coleen Sullins, Director Division of Water Quality



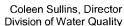
The project shall be constructed in accordance with your application dated received May 14, 2008. After reviewing your application, we have decided that these impacts are covered by General Water Quality Certification Number 3688. This certification corresponds to the Nationwide Permit 33 issued by the Corps of Engineers. This approval is also valid for the Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules (15A NCAC 2B.0233). In addition, you should acquire any other federal, state or local permits before you proceed with your project including (but not limited to) Sediment and Erosion Control, Non-Discharge and Water Supply Watershed regulations. This approval will expire with the accompanying 404 permit.

This approval is valid solely for the purpose and design described in your application (unless modified below). Should your project change, you must notify the DWQ and submit a new application. If the property is sold, the new owner must be given a copy of this Certification and approval letter, and is thereby responsible for complying with all the conditions. If total wetland fills for this project (now or in the future) exceed one acre, or of total impacts to streams (now or in the future) exceed 150 linear feet, compensatory mitigation may be required as described in 15A NCAC 2H .0506 (h) (6) and (7). For this approval to remain valid, you must adhere to the conditions listed in the attached certification as well as those listed below.

Conditions of Certification:

- 1. The post-construction removal of any temporary bridge structures must return the project site to its preconstruction contours and elevations. The impacted areas shall be revegetated with appropriate native species.
- 2. Strict adherence to the most recent version of NCDOT's Best Management Practices For Bridge Demolition and Removal approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers is a condition of the 401 Water Quality Certification.
- 3. Bridge deck drains shall not discharge directly into the stream. Stormwater shall be directed across the bridge and pre-treated through site-appropriate means (grassed swales, pre-formed scour holes, vegetated buffers, etc.) before entering the stream. Please refer to the most current version of *Stormwater Best Management Practices*.
- 4. All riparian buffers impacted by the placement of temporary fill or clearing activities shall be restored to the preconstruction contours and revegetated. Maintained buffers shall be permanently revegetated with non-woody species by the end of the growing season following completion of construction. For the purpose of this condition, maintained buffer areas are defined as areas within the transportation corridor that will be subject to regular DOT maintenance activities including mowing. The area with non-maintained buffers shall be permanently revegetated, with native woody species before the next growing season following completion of construction.
- 5. Pursuant to NCAC15A 2B.0233(6), sediment and erosion control devices shall not be placed in Zone 1 of any Neuse Buffer without prior approval by the NCDWQ. At this time, the NCDWQ has approved no sediment and erosion control devices in Zone 1, outside of the approved project impacts, anywhere on this project. Moreover, sediment and erosion control devices shall be allowed in Zone 2 of the buffers provided that Zone 1 is not compromised and that discharge is released as diffuse flow.
- 6. All stormwater runoff shall be directed as sheetflow through stream buffers at nonerosive velocities, unless otherwise approved by this certification.
- 7. If concrete is used during construction, a dry work area shall be maintained to prevent direct contact between curing concrete and stream water. Water that inadvertently contacts uncured concrete shall not be discharged to surface waters due to the potential for elevated pH and possible aquatic life and fish kills.
- 8. During the construction of the project, no staging of equipment of any kind is permitted in waters of the U.S., or protected riparian buffers.





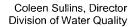


- 9. The dimension, pattern and profile of the stream above and below the crossing shall not be modified. Disturbed floodplains and streams shall be restored to natural geomorphic conditions.
- 10. The use of rip-rap above the Normal High Water Mark shall be minimized. Any rip-rap placed for stream stabilization shall be placed in stream channels in such a manner that it does not impede aquatic life passage.
- 11. The Permittee shall ensure that the final design drawings adhere to the permit and to the permit drawings submitted for approval.
- 12. All work in or adjacent to stream waters shall be conducted in a dry work area. Approved BMP measures from the most current version of NCDOT Construction and Maintenance Activities manual such as sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams and other diversion structures shall be used to prevent excavation in flowing water.
- 13. Heavy equipment shall be operated from the banks rather than in the stream channel in order to minimize sedimentation and reduce the introduction of other pollutants into the stream.
- 14. All mechanized equipment operated near surface waters must be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent contamination of stream waters from fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, or other toxic materials.
- 15. No rock, sand or other materials shall be dredged from the stream channel except where authorized by this certification.
- 16. Discharging hydroseed mixtures and washing out hydroseeders and other equipment in or adjacent to surface waters is prohibited.
- 17. The permittee and its authorized agents shall conduct its activities in a manner consistent with State water quality standards (including any requirements resulting from compliance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act) and any other appropriate requirements of State and Federal law. If DWQ determines that such standards or laws are not being met (including the failure to sustain a designated or achieved use) or that State or federal law is being violated, or that further conditions are necessary to assure compliance, DWQ may reevaluate and modify this certification.
- 18. All fill slopes located in jurisdictional wetlands shall be placed at slopes no flatter than 3:1, unless otherwise authorized by this certification..
- 19. A copy of this Water Quality Certification shall be maintained on site at the construction site at all times. In addition, the Water Quality Certification and all subsequent modifications, if any, shall be maintained with the Division Engineer and the on-site project manager.
- 20. The outside buffer, wetland or water boundary located within the construction corridor approved by this authorization shall be clearly marked by highly visible fencing prior to any land disturbing activities. Impacts to areas within the fencing are prohibited unless otherwise authorized by this certification.
- 21. The issuance of this certification does not exempt the Permittee from complying with any and all statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances that may be imposed by other government agencies (i.e. local, state, and federal) having jurisdiction, including but not limited to applicable buffer rules, stormwater management rules, soil erosion and sedimentation control requirements, etc.
- 22. The Permittee shall report any violations of this certification to the Division of Water Quality within 24 hours of discovery.
- 23. Sediment and erosion control measures shall not be placed in wetlands or waters unless otherwise approved by

 this Certification.

 North Carolina

 Naturally





- 24. Upon completion of the project (including any impacts at associated borrow or waste site), the NCDOT Division Engineer shall complete and return the enclosed "Certification of Completion Form" to notify DWQ when all work included in the 401 Certification has been completed.
- 25. Native woody riparian vegetation (i.e., trees and shrubs native to your geographic region) must be reestablished within the construction limits of the project by the end of the growing season following completion of construction.
- 26. There shall be no excavation from, or waste disposal into, jurisdictional wetlands or waters associated with this permit without appropriate modification. Should waste or borrow sites, or access roads to waste or borrow sites, be located in wetlands or streams, compensatory mitigation will be required since that is a direct impact from road construction activities.
- 27. Erosion and sediment control practices must be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices in order to protect surface waters standards:
 - a. The erosion and sediment control measures for the project must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual*.
 - b. The design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the sediment and erosion control measures must be such that they equal, or exceed, the requirements specified in the most recent version of the *North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Manual*. The devices shall be maintained on all construction sites, borrow sites, and waste pile (spoil) projects, including contractor-owned or leased borrow pits associated with the project.
 - c. For borrow pit sites, the erosion and sediment control measures must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Surface Mining Manual*.
 - d. The reclamation measures and implementation must comply with the reclamation in accordance with the requirements of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.

If you do not accept any of the conditions of this certification, you may ask for an adjudicatory hearing. You must act within 60 days of the date that you receive this letter. To ask for a hearing, send a written petition that conforms to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes to the Office of Administrative Hearings, 6714 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699. This certification and its conditions are final and binding unless you ask for a hearing. This letter completes the review of the Division of Water Quality under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Ridings at (919) 733-9817.

Sincerely,

Coleen Sullins

Attachments (General Certification and Certificate of Completion form)

cc: Chad Coggins, Division 4 Environmental Officer

William Wescott, US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Field Office

Travis Wilson, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Veronica Barnes, NCDOT NEU

File Copy

NorthCarolina *Naturally*



Coleen Sullins, Director Division of Water Quality



DWQ Project No.:	County:
Applicant:	
Project Name:	
Date of Issuance of 401 Water Quality	y Certification:
any subsequent modifications, the applicunit, North Carolina Division of Water	within the 401 Water Quality Certification or applicable Buffer Rules, and cant is required to return this certificate to the 401 Transportation Permitting Quality, 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC, 27699-1650. This form ant, the applicant's authorized agent, or the project engineer. It is not f these.
was used in the observation of the const	, hereby state that, to the best of my abilities, due care and diligence ruction such that the construction was observed to be built within substantial Quality Certification and Buffer Rules, the approved plans and terials.
Signature:	Date:
Agent's Certification I, was used in the observation of the const	, hereby state that, to the best of my abilities, due care and diligence ruction such that the construction was observed to be built within substantial Quality Certification and Buffer Rules, the approved plans and
Signature:	Date:
Permittee hereby state that, to the best o construction such that the construction v	, as a duly registered Professional Engineer in the State of North erve (periodically, weekly, full time) the construction of the project, for the of my abilities, due care and diligence was used in the observation of the was observed to be built within substantial compliance and intent of the 401 Rules, the approved plans and specifications, and other supporting materials.
Signature	Registration No.
Date	



Water Quality Certification No. 3688

GENERAL CERTIFICATION FOR PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATIONWIDE PERMIT NUMBER 33 (TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION, ACCESS AND DEWATERING) AND RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION RULES (BUFFER RULES)

Water Quality Certification Number 3688 is issued in conformity with the requirements of Section 401, Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 of the United States and subject to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality Regulations in 15A NCAC 2H, Section .0500 and 15A NCAC 2B .0200 for the discharge of fill material to waters and wetland areas as described in 33 CFR 330 Appendix A (B) (33) and for the Riparian Area Protection Rules (Buffer Rules) in 15A NCAC 2B .0200. The category of activities shall include any fill activity for temporary construction, access and de-watering.

The State of North Carolina certifies that the specified category of activity will not violate appropriate portions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 if conducted in accordance with the conditions hereinafter set forth.

Activities covered by this General Certification *do not* require written approval from the Division of Water Quality (the "Division") as long as they comply with the Conditions listed below. If any of these Conditions cannot be met, or if the activity is associated with or in response to a Notice of Violation from the Division of Water Quality or the NC Division of Land Resources, then written approval from the Division is required. Activities that are located within river basins with Riparian Area Protection Rules (Buffer Rules) require written approval unless listed in the as "Exempt" within the riparian rules.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute Section 143-215.3D(e), any requirement for written approval for a 401 Water Quality Certification must include the appropriate fee. If a project also requires a CAMA Permit, then one payment to both agencies shall be submitted and will be the higher of the two fees.

Conditions of Certification:

1. No Impacts Beyond those authorized by this Certification

No waste, spoil, solids, or fill of any kind shall occur in wetlands, waters, or riparian areas beyond the thresholds authorized by this Certification, including incidental impacts. All construction activities, including the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of sediment and erosion control Best Management Practices, shall be performed so that no violations of state water quality standards, statutes, or rules occur.

2. Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Practices

Erosion and sediment control practices shall be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices:

- a. Design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the sediment and erosion control measures must be such that they equal, or exceed, the requirements specified in the most recent version of the North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Manual. The devices shall be maintained on all construction sites, borrow sites, and waste pile (spoil) projects, including contractor-owned or leased borrow pits associated with the project.
- b. For borrow pit sites, the erosion and sediment control measures must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Surface Mining Manual*.

Water Quality Certification No. 3688

6. Riparian Area Protection (Buffer) Rules

Activities located in the protected 50-foot wide riparian areas (whether jurisdictional wetlands or not) within the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Randleman and Catawba River Basins (or any other basin with buffer rules), shall be limited to "uses" identified within and constructed in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B .0233, .0259, .0250, and .0243, and shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained to have minimal disturbance to protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable through the use of best management practices. All buffer rule requirements, including diffuse flow requirements, shall be met.

7. Water Supply Watershed Buffers

The 100-foot wide (high-density development) or the 30-foot wide vegetative buffer (all other development) shall be maintained adjacent to all perennial waters except for allowances as provided in the Water Supply Watershed Protection Rules [15A NCAC 2B .0212 through .0215].

- 8. If an environmental document is required under NEPA or SEPA, then this General Certification is not valid until a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD) is issued by the State Clearinghouse.
- 9. Placement of culverts and other structures in waters, streams, and wetlands

The application must include construction plans with cross-sectional details in order to indicate that the current stability of the stream will be maintained or enhanced (i.e., not result in head cuts).

Culverts required for this project shall be designed and installed in such a manner that the original stream profiles are not altered and allow for aquatic life movement during low flows. Existing stream dimensions (including the cross section dimensions, pattern, and longitudinal profile) must be maintained above and below locations of each culvert. Placement of culverts and other structures in waters, streams, and wetlands must be placed below the elevation of the streambed by one foot for all culverts with a diameter greater than 48 inches, and 20 percent of the culvert diameter for culverts having a diameter less than 48 inches, to allow low flow passage of water and aquatic life. unless otherwise justified and approved by the Division

Installation of culverts in wetlands must ensure continuity of water movement and be designed to adequately accommodate high water or flood conditions. Additionally, when roadways, causeways or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges must be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in destabilization of streams or wetlands.

Any rip rap required for normal pipe burial and stabilization shall be buried such that the original stream elevation is restored and maintained.

The establishment of native, woody vegetation and other soft stream bank stabilization techniques must be used where practicable instead of rip-rap or other bank hardening methods.

Water Quality Certification No. 3688

17. The applicant/permittee and their authorized agents shall conduct all activities in a manner consistent with State water quality standards (including any requirements resulting from compliance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act), and any other appropriate requirements of State and Federal Law. If the Division determines that such standards or laws are not being met, including failure to sustain a designated or achieved use, or that State or Federal law is being violated, or that further conditions are necessary to assure compliance, then the Division may reevaluate and modify this General Water Quality Certification.

Non-compliance with or violation of the conditions herein set forth by a specific fill project shall result in revocation of this General Certification for the project and may result in criminal and/or civil penalties.

The Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality may require submission of a formal application for individual certification for any project in this category of activity if it is determined that the project is likely to have a significant adverse effect upon water quality, including state or federally listed endangered or threatened aquatic species, or degrade the waters so that existing uses of the wetland, stream or downstream waters are precluded.

Public hearings may be held for specific applications or group of applications prior to a Certification decision if deemed in the public's best interest by the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

Effective date: November 1, 2007

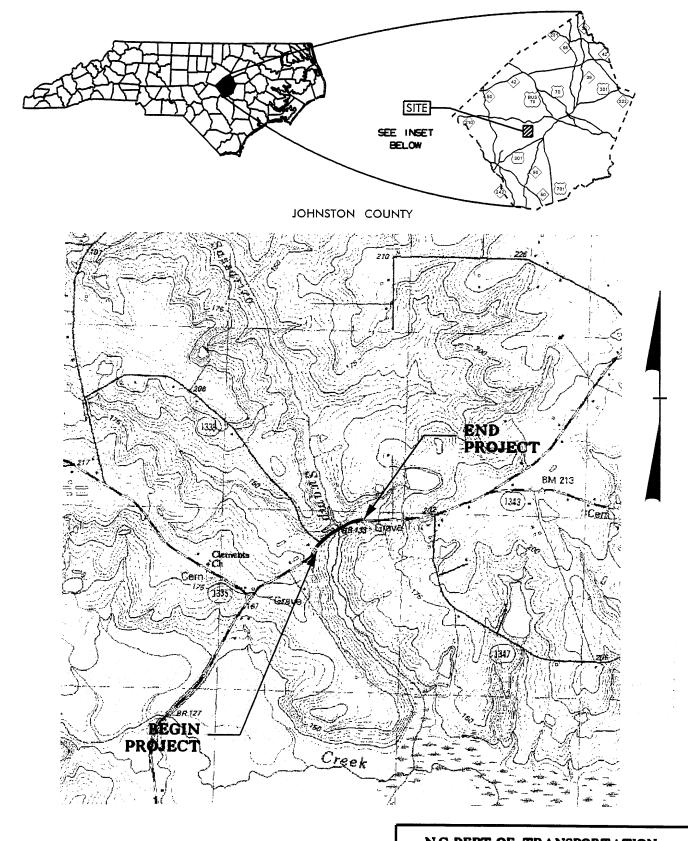
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Вγ

Coleen H. Sullins

Director

History Note: Water Quality Certification Number 3388 replaces Water Quality Certification Number 2727 issued on May 1, 1992, Certification Number 3114 issued on February 11, 1997, Certification Number 3366 issued March 18, 2002, and Certification Number 3634 issued March, 2007. This General Certification is rescinded when the Corps of Engineers reauthorize Nationwide Permit 33 or when deemed appropriate by the Director of the Division of Water Quality.



WETLAND IMPACTS
VICINITY MAP

N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

JOHNSTON COUNTY

PROJECT:33513.1.1 (B-4165)
BRIDGE NO.89 OVER
SASSARIXA SWAMP ON
SR 1162 (BLACK CREEK RD)

SHEET ⊥ ОГ 1

12/28/07

Permit Drawing
Sheet _ 2 _ of _ 9 __

WORKPAD (TYPICALLY I' - CLASS IRIP RAP) WORKPAD DETAIL (NOT TO SCALE) N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION JOHNSTON COUNTY PROJECT: \$351X.1.1 (B-4165) BRIDGE NO.89 ON SR 1162 (BLACK CREEK RD) OVER SASSARIXA SWAMP DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS P SHEET STREAM BED -+5.4 Estimate 520 Tons Class II Rip Rap VOLUME OF CLASS IIRIP RAP= 350 yds³ AREA OF CLASS II RIP RAP= 0.03 ac +5+ **OUANTITIES OF ESTIMATES** PROPOSED BRIDGE DECK N.W.S. ELEV=124.2 FLOW-

PROPERTY OWNERS

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

PARCEL NO.	NAMES	ADDRESSES
1	TERRY ANDREW SPENCE	310 WATKINS RD CLAYTON, NC 27520
2	WILSON F. WILLIAMS	P.O. BOX 152 FOUR OAKS, NC 27524

NCDOT

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

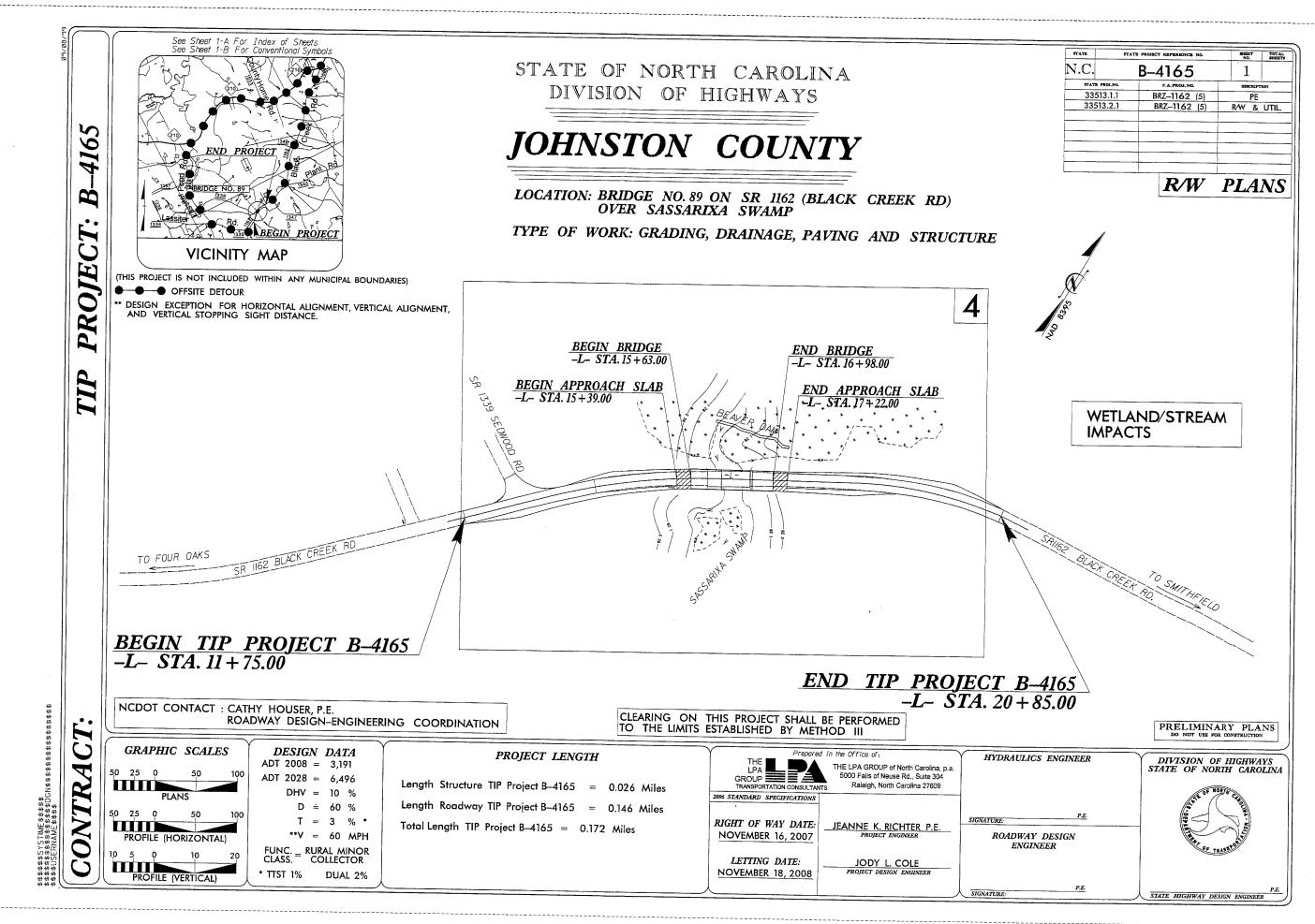
JOHNSTON COUNTY

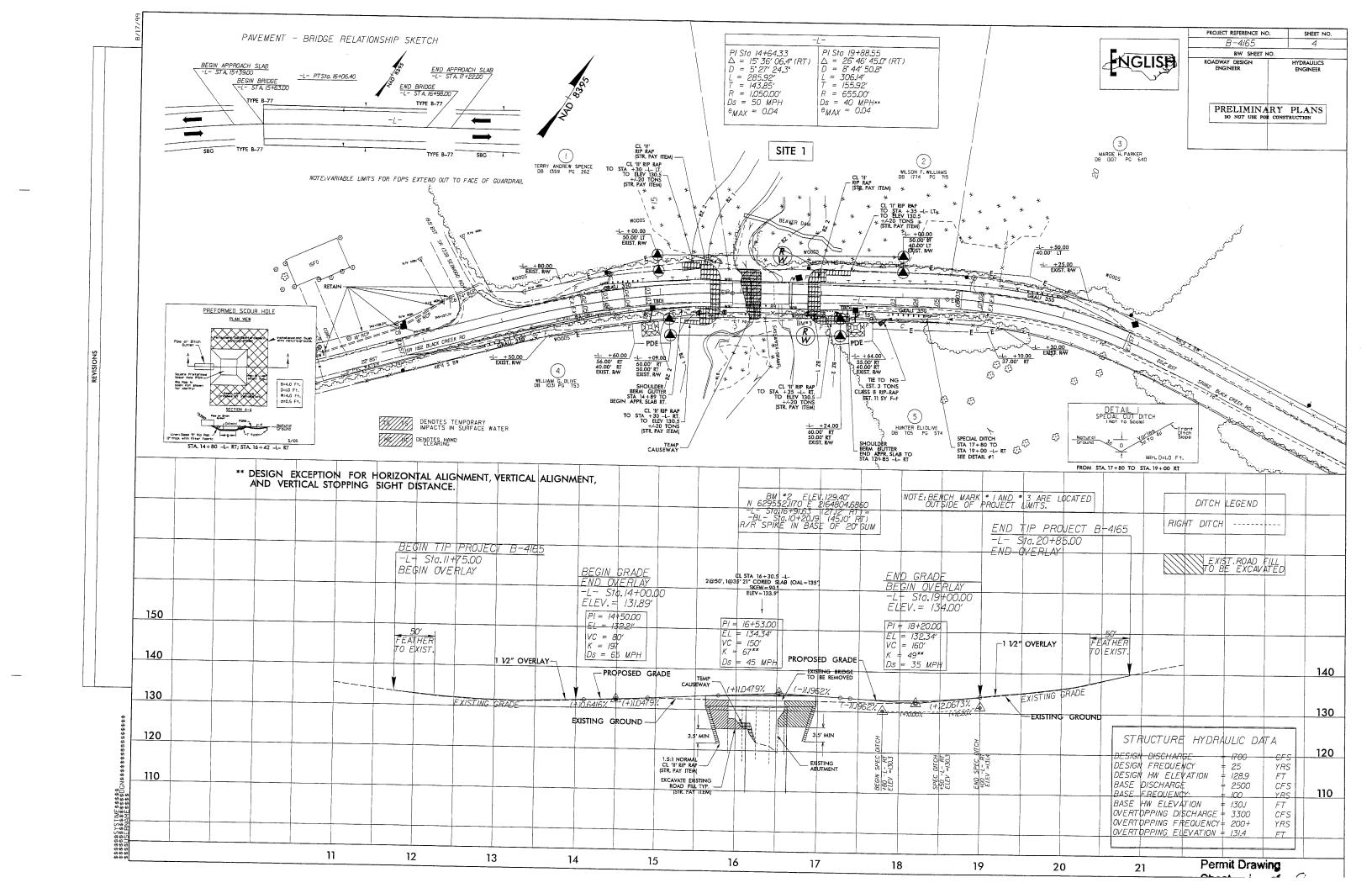
PROJECT: 33513.1.1 (B-4165)
BRIDGE NO. 89 ON SR 1162
(BLACK CREEK RD) OVER
SASSARIXA SWAMP

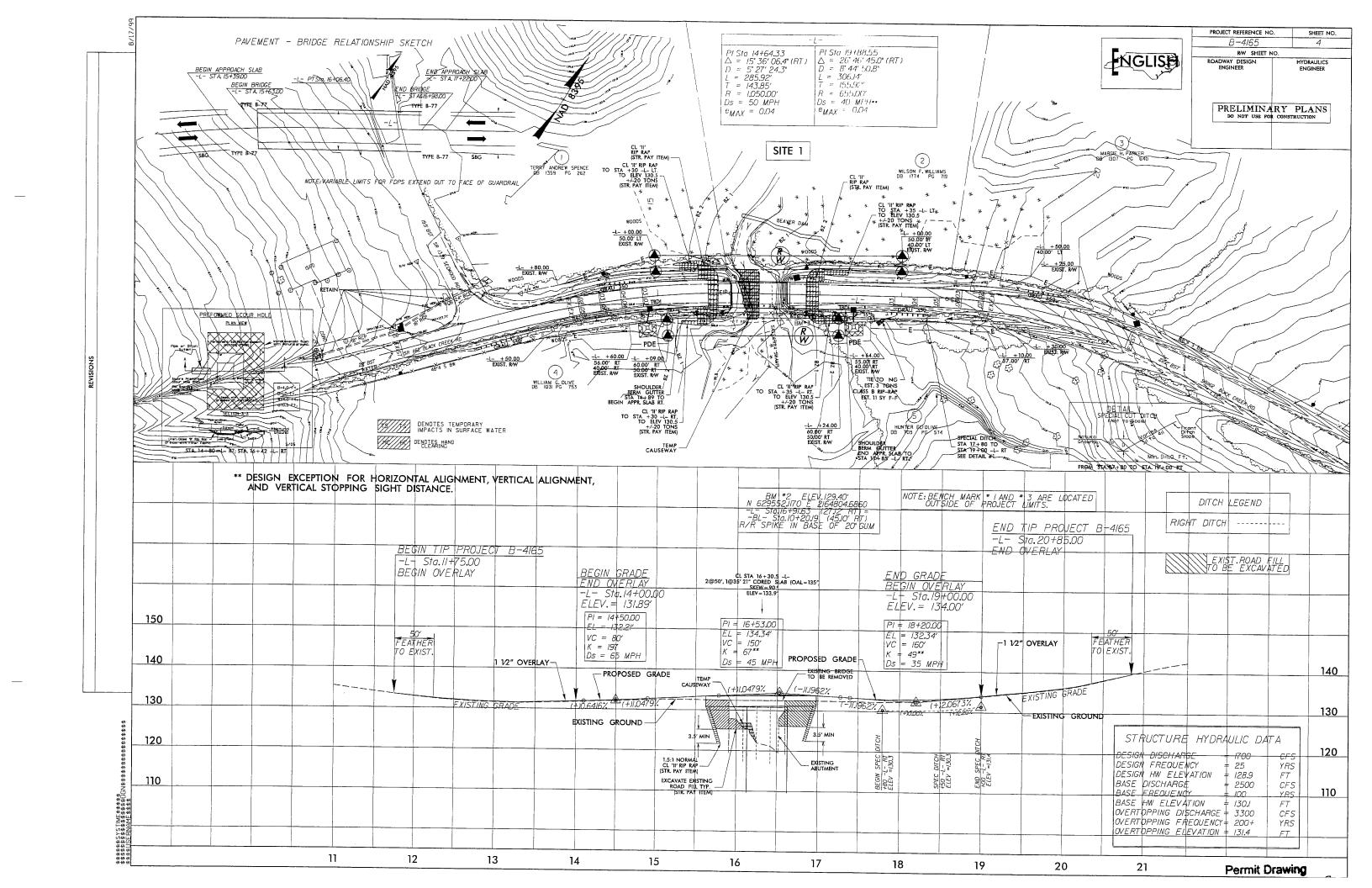
SHEET

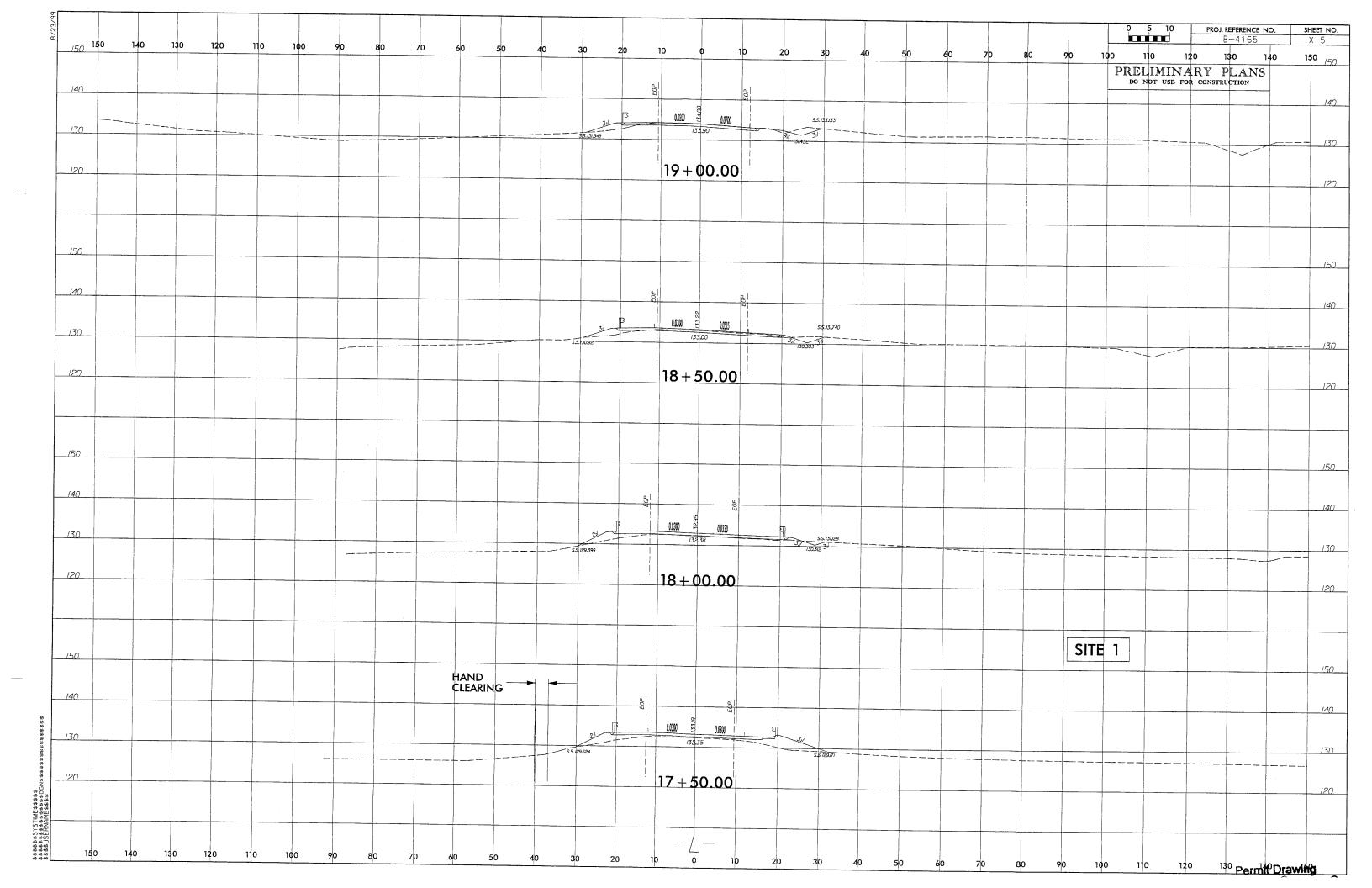
OF

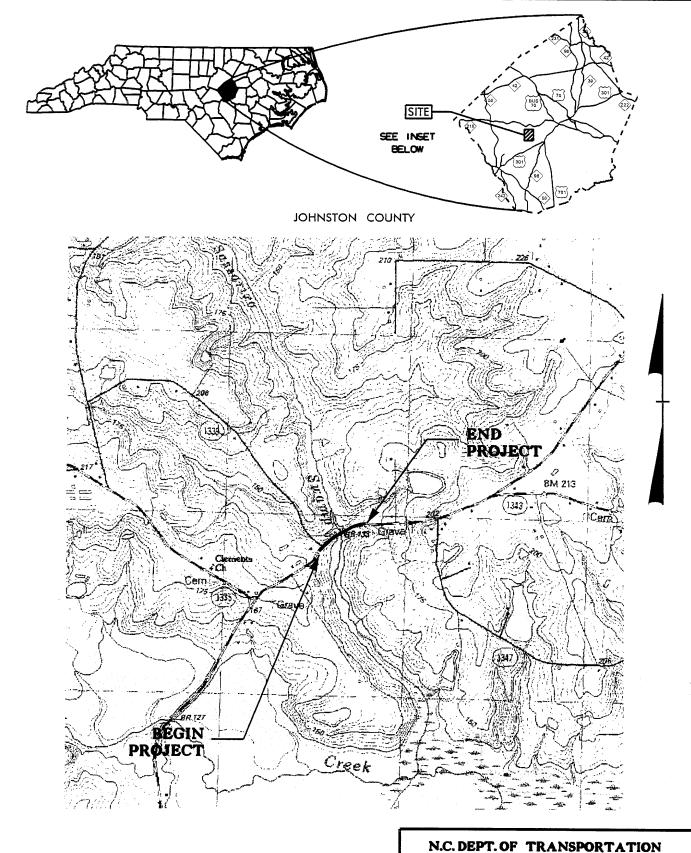
12/28/07











BUFFER IMPACTS VICINITY MAP

N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

JOHNSTON COUNTY

PROJECT:33513.1.1 (B-4165)
BRIDGE NO.89 OVER
SASSARIXA SWAMP ON
SR 1162 (BLACK CREEK RD)

SHEET ⊥ OF →

12/28/07

Buffer Drawing
Sheet 2 of 7

														NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS	JOHNSTON COUNTY	PROJECT:33513.1.1 (B-4165)	12/28/2007
JMMARY	N BUFFER	ZONE 2 (ft^2)	342										342					
BUFFER IMPACTS SUMMARY	WETLANDS IN BUFFER	ZONE 1 (ft^2)	1194										1194					
BUFFEI		Station	15+63-16+98 -L-										TOTAL					
		Site	-															
												•						

PROPERTY OWNERS

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

PARCEL NO.	NAMES	ADDRESSES
1	TERRY ANDREW SPENCE	310 WATKINS RD CLAYTON, NC 27520
2	WILSON F. WILLIAMS	P.O. BOX 152 FOUR OAKS, NC 27524
4	WILLIAM G.OLIVE	3968 BLACK CREEK RD SMITHFIELD, NC 27577
5	HUNTER ELI OLIVE	3956 BLACK OLIVE RD SMITHFIELD, NC 27577

NCDOT

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

JOHNSTON COUNTY

PROJECT: 33513.1.1 (B-4165) BRIDGE NO.89 ON SR 1162 (BLACK CREEK RD) OVER SASSARIXA SWAMP

SHEET

OF

12/28/07

Buffer Drawing
Sheet 4 of 7

