STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

November 13, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

FROM: MAT Michael A. Turchy, ECAP Group Leader
Environmental Analysis Unit

SUBJECT: Environmental Permits for the Geotechnical Borings for the Replacement of Bridge 649 over the French Broad River in Buncombe County, Division 13, **TIP: B-5953.**

Please find enclosed the following permits for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Permit Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Nationwide Permit 6	March 15, 2031
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	General Certification No. 8565 [*non-notifying*]	March 15, 2031

Geotechnical survey activities are authorized by the above referenced permit provided it is accomplished in strict accordance with the permitted plans. The Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group or the Division Environmental Office must be consulted if any deviation from the permit(s) is required.

The General Conditions and Certifications for Nationwide and Regional Permits can be referenced at: https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/pdea/EnvironmentalPermits/_General_Conditions_and_Certifications/

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968
Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WILMINGTON DISTRICT
ASHEVILLE REGULATORY FIELD OFFICE
151 PATTON AVENUE, ROOM 208
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28801

November 5, 2026

Regulatory Division

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Attention: Ms. Erin Cheely
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Sent Via Email: ekcheely@ncdot.gov

SUBJECT: SAW-2026-01551 B-5953, FBR and Southern Railroad, Old Leicester Highway (SR 1002), Buncombe County, WBS 47217.1.1-Div. 13

Dear Ms. Cheely,

This letter is in response to the Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, WRDA/Transportation Branch on August 27, 2026, for a Department of the Army general permit verification. The project review area is located along Old Leicester Highway (SR 1002), just west of the intersection with Riverside Drive, at Latitude 35.62856 and Longitude -82.60212; in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. This project has been assigned File No. SAW-2026-01551 and should be referenced in all correspondence concerning this project.

A review of the information provided indicates the proposed work would include a geotechnical investigation for the future replacement of Bridge 100649 over the French Broad River. A total of 21 borings would be advanced; 4 borings located within the water and 4 borings located along the shoreline, below the mean high water mark of the French Broad River. The boring advancement would be completed from a floating barge, placed in the water by a crane from the east side of the river. The barge would remain in the river for the anticipated three-to-five-day survey time, moored at the drilling locations. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. would occur with this project.

We have determined that the proposed work is authorized by **Nationwide Permit 6 – Survey Activities** pursuant to authorities under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C § 1344). The proposed work must be accomplished in strict accordance with the general permit conditions, any regional conditions, the application materials, and the enclosed plans. If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a revised PCN must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, the special

conditions of this letter, the information contained in the PCN, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to enforcement action.

This verification is valid until **March 15, 2031**, unless prior to this date the subject NWP(s) is suspended, revoked, or is modified such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of this NWP. If you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant NWP is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this NWP.

Project Specific Special Conditions:

1. This permit does not authorize the interference with any existing or proposed Federal project, and the Permittee will not be entitled to compensation for damage or injury to the authorized structure or work which may be caused from existing or future operations undertaken by the United States in the public interest. No attempt will be made by the Permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the authorized work. Use of the permitted activity must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States.

2. The Permittee shall install and maintain, at its expense, any safety lights and signals to ensure visibility of the barge day and night while the barge is moored within the French Broad River.

3. It is possible that the authorized structure or vessel may be damaged by wavewash from passing vessels. The issuance of this permit does not relieve the Permittee from taking all proper steps to ensure the integrity and safety of the permitted moored boats and barges. The Permittee will not hold the United States liable for any such damage.

4. The Permittee, upon receipt of a notice of revocation of this permit or upon its expiration before completion of the work, will, without expense to the United States and in such time and manner as the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative may direct, restore the waterway to its former conditions. If the Permittee fails to comply with this direction, the Secretary or his representative may restore the waterway, by contract or otherwise, and recover the cost from the Permittee.

5. NCDOT shall require its contractors and/or agents to comply with the terms and conditions of this authorization letter in the construction and maintenance of this project and shall provide each of its contractors and/or agents associated with the construction or maintenance of this project with a copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications. A copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications, shall be available at the project site during construction and maintenance of this project.

This general permit verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Brooke Davis, Regulatory Project Manager of the WRDA/Transportation Branch at 828-271-7980 ext. 4232, by mail at the above address, or by email at brooke.a.davis@usace.army.mil. Please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located at https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/.

Sincerely,



M. Scott Jones, PWS
WRDA / Transportation Branch Chief
USACE, Wilmington District

Enclosures

Copies furnished (via email only):
Amy Annino, North Carolina Division of Water Resources
Dave McHenry, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

For use of this form, see Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; the proponent agency is CECW-COR.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires 2027-10-31

The Agency Disclosure Notice (ADN)

The Public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PURPOSE: This form is used by recipients of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Regulatory permits to certify compliance with the permit terms and conditions.

Your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit, you are subject to permit suspension, modification, or revocation.

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Regulatory Office.

The certification can be submitted by email at brooke.a.davis@usace.army.mil or by mail at the below address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District Office, Asheville Field Office
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

COMPLETED BY THE CORPS

Corps Action Number: SAW-2026-01551

Permit Type: Nationwide Permit

General Permit Number and Name (*if applicable*): 6-Survey Activities

Name of Permittee: NC Department of Transportation

Project Name: B-5953, FBR and Southern Railroad, Old Leicester Hwy (SR 1002), Buncombe County, WBS 47217.1.1

Project Location (*physical address*): Old Leicester Highway
Asheville, North Carolina

PERMITTEE'S CERTIFICATION

Date Work Started: _____

Date Work Completed: _____

Enclose photographs showing the completed project (*if available*).

I _____ hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit has been completed in accordance with all of the permit terms and conditions, and that any required compensatory mitigation has been completed in accordance with the permit conditions.

Name	Date	Signature

Staff Project Review Form

*Please note: fields marked with a red asterisk * below are required. You will not be able to submit the form until all mandatory questions are answered.*

Staff Report Submitted on: 9/9/2026

This will be filled in automatically.

PROJECT INFORMATION

ID#: 20261172

Version: 1

Project Name: NCDOT/B-5953/French Broad River and Southern Railroad/Old Leicester Highway (SR 1002)/Buncombe County/Div 13/WBS 47217.1.1

County(ies):

Buncombe

Contact Emails:

ekcheely@ncdot.gov

PROJECT FOLDER ACCESS

Click here to log in to see the project information submitted.

STAFF REVIEW INFORMATION

Check all agencies that need to receive notification of your decision.

- [ ] DCM
- [ ] WRC
- [ ] DMS

Does this complete the review for this project?*

- (•) Yes - Review Complete
- ( ) No - Still in Review
- ( ) No - Place on hold

This updates the progress status for this project in Laserfiche.

What types of information are you providing about this project?*

- [ ] Decision Letter
- [ ] Duplicate Information
- [ ] Placed on Hold
- [ ] More Info Received
- [ ] More Info Requested
- [x] No Written Concurrence Required
- [ ] Staff Notes

REVIEW COMPLETION DECISION INFORMATION

Has your decision letter been uploaded into Laserfiche?*

- ( ) Yes - Uploaded separately
- ( ) Yes - Attaching it to this form
- ( ) No - Sent for signature (TPB Unit Only)
- (•) N/A


B-5953 Geotechnical Borings
Figure 1.
Google Earth
Image © 2026 Airbus
200 ft
N