



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

February 24, 2012

NC Department of Environment and
Natural Resources - NCDWQ
1650 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1650

ATTN: Mr. Charles Wakild, P.E.
Director

Dear Sir:

Subject: **Revision to NCDOT Response to NCDWQ On-Hold Letter** for the I-40 & I-77 interchange in Statesville including I-40 from west of SR 2003 to SR 2158 and I-77 from south of SR 2321 (East Broad Street) to south of SR 2171 in Iredell County. Federal Aid Project No. IMS-40-2, WBS 34192.1.2. Division 12, TIP No. I-3819A.

Reference : 404/401 Permit Application dated, November 28, 2011
NCDWQ On Hold Letter dated, January 23, 2012
Response to NCDWQ On-Hold Letter, dated January 31, 2012
EEP Acceptance Letter, dated January 31, 2012

On January 31, 2012, NCDOT responded in writing to NCDWQ's On Hold Letter. In item 1 of the response letter, it was stated that half of the 2:1 mitigation required for the 1.36 acres of wetland impacts would be acquired from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), and the other half would be provided through on-site wetland preservation.

I-3819A is the initial phase of the interchange improvement at I-40 and I-77 in Statesville. The final build-out of this project (I-3819B) will involve the construction of new interchange ramps. Out of concern that the final-build out has the potential to impact some of the area previously proposed as wetland preservation for this project, NCDOT is now proposing to obtain all 2:1 mitigation required for the 1.36 acres of permanent wetland impacts for I-3819A from EEP.

This change does not impact the EEP acceptance letter dated January 31, 2012 as the letter commits to providing the ratios required 'as determined by the regulatory agencies'. EEP has been notified of the change and (per e-mail from Beth Harmon on 2/4/12) has made the necessary adjustments for the wetland needs in their database.

We feel that this information completes the permitting requirements and request issuance of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Erin Cheely at ekcheely@ncdot.gov or (919) 707-6108.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D., Manager

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit

cc: Polly Lespinasse, NCDWQ Mooresville Regional Office
Liz Hair, USACE Asheville Office
Trish Simon, NCDOT Division 12 DEO
Sonia Carrillo, NCDWQ Central Office