



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

November 9, 2018

Mr. Scott Lanier
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1969
Manteo, NC 27954

Subject: Clarification of Special Use Permit for Interim Construction Activities
NC-12 – Rodanthe Breach Long-Term Improvements, Bonner Bridge Replacement Project
Phase IIb in Dare County, North Carolina; TIP Project B-2500B, Federal Aid Project No.
BRNHF-0012(56); WBS Element 32635.3.FR7

Please reference the recently submitted October 31, 2018 Special Use Permit (SUP) Application. Pursuant to a subsequent voice conversation with Mr. David Hering with NCDOT, this letter serves to clarify the activities proposed to be conducted to prepare to build the permanent bridge structure. NCDOT is requesting to begin these preparation/ temporary activities prior to the issuance of the Easement Deed in order to keep construction crews on-schedule.

A more detailed description, including proposed timelines have been added below. These activities are temporary in nature and are reversable in the event the Easement Deed cannot be issued or requires modification.

Temporary Relocation of Utilities

Since the bridge will be leaving NC 12 on the same side of the road as the utilities, they will need to be relocated so they are not in conflict with construction equipment and the new structure. The utilities will be temporarily relocated outside of the construction limits. A temporary easement from the Refuge will be required for this relocation.

Anticipated Schedule

Coordination with Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is on-going, but it is anticipated these utilities will be relocated in December 2018 or early 2019.

Temporary Relocation of NC 12

Since the bridge “take off” will be on the current NC 12 alignment, a short detour around the construction site will be required so traffic can remain unimpeded by construction activities. This short detour will also ensure a safe distance and separation from NC 12 and construction activities. Construction of this detour will occur in areas proposed as temporary easement to be acquired from the Refuge. The area will be returned to natural grade once completed.

Anticipated Schedule

Construction of this detour will start as soon as approval for the SUP has been received and will take approximately 1 month. During this same timeframe, the previously coordinated new parking lot will be constructed for use as a staging yard. The detour will remain in place until construction is complete, and traffic is routed onto the new bridge.

Advancing Rail System

A temporary advancing rail system will be used to construct the bridge in a "top-down" method, allowing for a reduced impact to environmental resources. This rail system will be constructed as soon as the temporary detour is constructed. Construction of this rail system will occur in areas proposed as Permanent Easement to be acquired from the Refuge.

Anticipated Schedule

Construction of the advancing rail system will begin approximately one month after SUP approval.

Temporary Matting for Jetting Intake Activities

As previously discussed, jetting will be required to install piles for this project. A jetting intake and associated piping will be required to facility the jetting. To lay the pipe for this intake, temporary matting will be used to reduce impacts to natural resources. Construction of this rail system will occur within areas proposed as Permanent Easement to be acquired from the Refuge.

Anticipated Schedule

This work will take place 3-4 months after the SUP is issued. The first pile it will be used for is a 54" "demonstration pile" and then shortly thereafter will be used for production piles.

Meetings/Additional Information

Our Construction Team is ready to meet with Refuge staff and discuss the above-mentioned activities in more detail if necessary. Additionally, some of these activities are currently occurring on the south end (Rodanthe) portion of the project, outside of Federal lands. A meeting/tour can be arranged to display the activities that will be anticipated to occur on the Refuge.

We are hereby requesting a Special Use Permit from the USFWS for the above described activities. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Michael Turchy at maturchy@ncdot.gov or (919) 707-6157. A copy of this application/ clarification will also be posted at <https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/pdea/PermApps/B-2500>.

Sincerely,



Philip S. Harris, III, P.E., C.P.M., Unit Head
Environmental Analysis Unit

