



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT L. MCCRORY  
GOVERNOR

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON  
SECRETARY

October 15, 2015

N.C. Division of Water Resources  
Washington Regional Office  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889

Attention: Mr. Garcy Ward  
NCDOT Coordinator

Dear Sir:

Subject: **Permit Modification Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Tar-Pamlico Buffer Authorization** for the construction of a new rest area along US 17 near Chocowinity in Beaufort County; TIP Project K-3800; Federal Project No. NHS-17(32); Debit \$570 from WBS No. 38748.1.1.

References: 401 issued 8/9/13, DWR Project No. 20130649, modified 5/16/14

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) applied for permit authorizations for the subject project on June 19, 2013. This application indicated that there were no expected impacts to streams or buffers due to utilities. NCDOT requested a modification to the permits to account for additional impacts, and these modifications were approved in May, 2014. The project was let to construction in January, 2014.

Additional coordination has taken place to refine the on-site mitigation plans for the project. Specifically, NCDOT is requesting a revision to the scheduled maintenance for Areas "A" and "B" as depicted on the attached map and in the attached maintenance schedule.

Total buffer mitigation proposed	81,457 sq. ft.
Total buffer impacts	22,226 sq. ft.
Buffer mitigation currently debited to cover impacts	52,742 sq. ft.
Buffer mitigation remaining	28,715 sq. ft.

As part of our request, NCDOT is proposing to allot the remaining buffer mitigation to this project.

A total of 81,457 sq.ft. of planted buffer mitigation is being offered to offset the 22,226 sq. ft. of farm field buffer impacts.

The maintenance schedule for Area "C" will remain as originally proposed.

It was determined during discussions with DWR that the planting density associated with the buffer mitigation plan was sufficient for this site. This planting density is currently 115 trees/acre. The trees that were planted in this buffer area were 3 gallon containerized material.

Success criteria for planting densities for this site will be adjusted to reflect this change in planting density. NCDOT proposes that the site meets vegetation success criteria if 115 trees/acre are surviving after 5 years.

### **Regulatory Approvals**

Section 401 Certification: NCDOT requests that the NCDWR issue a modification for the General 401 Water Quality Certification issued August 9, 2013, as required for the above-described activities.

Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Authorization: NCDOT requests that the NCDWR issue a modification for the Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Authorization issued August 9, 2013, as required for the above-described activities.

A copy of this modification request will be posted on the NCDOT Website at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Environmental/Pages/default.aspx>, under *Quick Links > Permit Applications*.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gordon Cashin at (919) 707-6107 or [gcashin@ncdot.gov](mailto:gcashin@ncdot.gov).

Sincerely,



*RW* Richard W. Hancock, P.E., Manager  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit

cc: Tom Steffens, USACE Washington

## Exhibit 1. K-3800 Beaufort Co Rest Area Vegetation Management Plan

	Vegetation Type	Maintenance		
		Method	Frequency	Time of Year
<b>Areas A and B</b>  <b>(The first 10' from top of bank will be left undisturbed)</b>	Live Stakes	Prune by hand of plants $\geq$ 3 ft	Once/yr.. Start two full years after planting.	Late fall.
	Grasses	Mechanically with mower and/or by hand with a string trimmer; 6" hgt.	3 times/yr.	April, July, and November
	Trees	Prune by hand dead wood	Once/yr. Start one full year after planting.	Late fall.
		Replacement of deficient stakes and wires.	As needed.	During first year.
		Removal of stakes and wires.	N/A	Mandatory after one full year.
		Removal of all dead or diseased vegetation considered 'beyond treatment'.	As needed.	N/A
<b>Area C</b>	Live Stakes	Follow original mitigation plan		
	Grasses	Follow original mitigation plan		
	Trees	Follow original mitigation plan		

- Selective use of herbicides to remove invasive species.

**Exhibit 2. K-3800 Beaufort Co Rest Area Mitigation Site Plan**

