

450-2936

Wood, Diana

From: Wood, Diana
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:15 PM
To: ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov
Cc: Stevens, Courtney M CIV USARMY CESAC (US)
Subject: Camp Hall Rail Project, Cultural Resources Survey - SHPO Project No. 16EJ0087, SAC-2016-01395
Attachments: EI-25366 SC SHPO.pdf

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) recently sent you an agency preliminary consultation letter, dated September 8, 2017, regarding the above referenced proposed rail line project entitled "STB Finance Docket No. 36095, Palmetto Railways—Construction and Operation Exemption—In Berkeley County, South Carolina." As the letter states, STB and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) are acting as joint-lead agencies in the NEPA review, and are seeking early agency input into the process. After sending the agency consultation letter, however, T Ravenel of Palmetto Railways sent the attached letter from your office, dated August 28, 2017, regarding the cultural resources survey. As we received your letter after the preliminary consultation letter was sent out, this email acknowledges your comments and concerns, and informs you that they will be considered as we move forward.

Specifically, you note that Palmetto Railway's proposed rail crossing of the Lakes Marion and Moultrie Diversion Canal and the Bulltown Ditch could have adverse effects on these National Register-eligible properties and District. To that end, we understand the importance of early project planning to avoid where possible, and/or minimize/mitigate potential harms the project could have on these resources. We are currently in the process of assessing Palmetto's various alternatives from the Tier studies discussed in the environmental report prepared by HDR (referenced in the September 8th letter and available to viewing on the project web site at www.camphallnepa.com) and have just sent Palmetto an information request to clarify certain aspects of the report's findings and conclusions. Palmetto's response to the information request, as well other responses from agencies and a site visit to the project area, possibly in the end of October, will help determine what alternatives, both proposed by Palmetto and possibly new ones created by STB and the Corps, will move forward in the NEPA and Section 106 process.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Diana Wood

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