



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

HEO-3005

Office of Environmental Analysis

June 13, 2018

Travis G. Hughes, Chief
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston District
69 Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36095, Palmetto Railways – Construction Exemption – In Berkeley County, South Carolina; Section 106 Lead Agency Designation

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.2 (a)(2), I am writing to designate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) as the lead federal agency responsible for fulfilling our collective responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). As you know, the Corps is a co-lead agency with the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in the preparation of an environmental assessment for the above-referenced proposed rail line project (Palmetto).

Both the Corps and OEA as co-lead agencies in the Palmetto project are striving to make our environmental review as effective and efficient as possible. The Corps' streamlined Section 106 process meets these goals for the Palmetto project. Specifically, the Corps' *2005 Revised Interim Guidance for Implementing Appendix C of 33 C.F.R. Part 325 with the revised Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 800*, issued by Corps Headquarters on April 25, 2005, states in paragraph 6.e that "The ACHP regulations encourage the use of existing procedures to fulfill consultation requirements. For Corps permits, the public notice procedures at 33 C.F.R. part 325 will satisfy the requirement for public involvement and notification, provided all consulting parties receive copies of public notices." Because Section 106 parties have already been notified as part of the Corps' public notice permitting procedures, the outreach step in the Section 106 process has been initiated. In addition to the U.S. Coast Guard, a cooperating agency in this proceeding,¹ we ask that you include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the consultation process—I have enclosed email correspondence that this agency sent to OEA providing a point of contact regarding Section 106 (see attachment).

¹The U.S. Coast Guard has stated that it will not participate further in the Section 106 process due to the limited scope of its involvement in the portion of the project that pertains to a bridge crossing a navigable waterway. However, it will adopt the Section 106 findings as part of the Bridge Permit process.

Please feel free to contact me or Diana Wood, OEA's environmental project manager for this project, at (202) 245-0302 or Diana.Wood@stb.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Attachment (1)

cc: Elizabeth Williams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
William Tate III, U.S. Coast Guard
Eric Emerson, State Historic Preservation Office
Elizabeth Johnson, State Historic Preservation Office
Keely Lewis, State Historic Preservation Office
Tarek Ravenel, Palmetto Railways

Wood, Diana

From: Mark Caldwell <mark_caldwell@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 7:37 AM
To: Wood, Diana
Cc: david.bauer@icf.com; Richard Kanaski
Subject: Docket # FD 36095 - Palmetto Railways
Attachments: 4209_001.pdf

Diana,

Thank you for the invitation to consult under Section 106 for the proposed Palmetto railway in Berkeley County , SC. I forwarded the invitation to the Service's Regional Archaeologist, Richard Kanaski. Richard has stated that he would like to be involved and should be considered as our Point of Contact for the Section 106 review. His address and phone number are:

Richard Kanaski
Regional Archaeologist
694 Beech Hill Lane
Hardeeville, SC 29927
843-784-6310

Thank you.

Mark
Mark A. Caldwell
Deputy Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Carolina Ecological Services
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
843-727-4707 ext 215
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