

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Alvin A. Taylor
Director
Lorianne Riggan
Director, Office of
Environmental Programs

December 19, 2018

Electronic submission

Ms. Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 36095, c/o ICF
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Docket No. FD 36095, Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for
Palmetto Railways Camp Hall Rail Line, Berkeley County, South Carolina

Dear Ms. Wood:

Personnel with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) for the Palmetto Railways Camp Hall Rail Line in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

The proposed rail line would provide rail service from the existing 6,781-acre Camp Hall Commerce Park to the A-Line of CSX Transportation Inc. (CSXT) near the Santee Cooper Generating Station. The stated purpose of the project is to bring rail service to the industrial park, to support area infrastructure needs, and to alleviate highway congestion involving large commercial trucks.

SCDNR previously provided comments to you regarding the proposed project, dated September 28, 2017, in response to a Preliminary Consultation request. SCDNR has also provided related comments in letters dated May 3, 2018 and October 10, 2018 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control pursuant to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). These letters are included as part of the record for the Draft EA in Appendix D, Agency Notices and Comment Letters.

SCDNR finds that the Draft EA, including the additional information provided in Appendices A through J, has adequately addressed most of our previously stated concerns. However, SCDNR previously recommended that construction activities not occur in the waters of the Diversion Canal that connects Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie between January and April to minimize impacts to diadromous fish species including the federally-endangered shortnose sturgeon. The NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service has also expressed similar concerns and we submit that these concerns should be addressed as mitigative measures in the Final Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project and provide comments. Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at mixong@dnr.sc.gov or by phone at 803.734.3282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Mixon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Greg Mixon
Office of Environmental Programs

cc: USACE
SCDHEC-EQC
SCDHEC-OCRM
NMFS
FWS
EPA