

HEL-26294

-----Original Message-----

From: Long, Larry [<mailto:Long.Larry@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 2:51 PM

To: wood@stb.dot.gov; Williams, Elizabeth G CIV USARMY CESAC (US)

<Elizabeth.G.Williams@usace.army.mil>

Cc: Militscher, Chris <Militscher.Chris@epa.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Palmetto Railways Camp Hall Project Scoping Comments

Ms. Dianne Wood

Project Manager

Office of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Palmetto Railways Camp Hall Project Scoping Comments

Ms. Wood

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Environmental Report for the Camp Hall Rail project in Berkeley County, South Carolina. The EPA notes that there are two lead federal agencies on this project. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Charleston District. Palmetto Railways is requesting regulatory approval to locate, build, own and operate an industrial rail line between Santee Cooper's Cross Generating Station and the Camp Hall Commerce Park in Berkeley County, South Carolina. As stated, the proposed project has the potential to impact 83.18 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, of which 77.9 acres are located within the Cooper Watershed, with 5.76 acres located in the Four Hole Swamp Watershed, including approximately 0.06 acres and 169 feet of jurisdictional streams.

The EPA would like to reiterate the water-quality protection recommendations that were previously made. These include the use of stringent erosion control practices during construction activities and timely re-establishment of vegetation on disturbed areas. The inspection and maintenance of silt fences and other erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) until vegetation has stabilized disturbed grounds. The use of natural vegetation and grading techniques (e.g. vegetated swales, vegetated buffer strips) to ensure the road does not serve as a conduit for storm water or pollutants into Waters of the U.S. The EPA also requests that compensatory mitigation for any unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional waters be identified and included in the draft NEPA document.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for your proposed project. In the event that the project rises above the application process and to the level of an EA or EIS along with a need to engage our review process, the EPA Region 4 requests two hard copies of the draft documents, with one electronic version, (e.g., CD). Please forward all hard/electronic copies to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4

Attn: NEPA Program Office

61 Forsyth Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

If you have any questions or comments concerning our recommendations, feel free to contact me via the information provided below.

Larry Long

Regional Mining Expert

Physical Scientist/Sr. Principle Reviewer Resource Conservation & Restoration Division EPA Region 4

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