

#E1-26305

Wood, Diana

From: Nicole Bonine - NOAA Federal <nicole.bonine@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 2:19 PM
To: Wood, Diana; David.Bauer@icf.com
Subject: SER-2018-19295 Palmetto Railway Diversion Canal Crossing

Hi Diana,

I wanted to introduce myself and let you know that I will be the project manager working on your consultation request. I see that you copied Elizabeth Williams from the USACE on your request. Do you have her email so I can copy her on communications? The USACE Public Notice also lists the THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section as a joint agency. Do I need to address this to them too?

Project questions:

1. The project states that 8 new 8.5 ft piles will be installed and that the in-water work will cover a total area of 453.6 ft². Can you please clarify if there are other in-water structures since 8 piles x 8.5 ft in size (102 inches) = 68 ft²
2. How will the metal casings be installed to cast in place the concrete piles? We are trying to ensure that no metal is installed by impact hammer so as to prevent injurious nose effects.
3. If you cannot give a construction schedule at this time, can you at least provide an estimated time or worst case scenario for how long it will take to complete the in-water work (days, weeks, months) and if work will be limited to daytime construction?
4. Are you willing to cease operations in the unlikely chance that a sturgeon is spotted? if so, would you agree to follow the Sea Turtle and Sawfish Construction Conditions and apply them to sturgeon (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/guidance_docs/documents/sea_turtle_and_s_malltooth_sawfish_construction_conditions_3-23-06.pdf)
5. Item 2 of the checklist states that water quality effects will be minimized or avoided. Does this include turbidity curtains or do you not feel they are necessary at this location and can you explain why?
 - o Construction could also temporarily affect water quality, causing an increase in turbidity levels and reduction of dissolved oxygen levels in the water column. Construction materials (including concrete) and accidental petro-chemical spills could also enter the water column which could temporarily degrade water quality conditions. It is anticipated that these potential temporary water quality impacts would be avoided or minimized through best management practices proposed by Palmetto Railways.

If I have any other questions as I work through the consultation, I will let you know. Also, I appreciate all the information you provided on the presence of sturgeon in these lakes.

Thanks!

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