



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25201, RALEIGH, N.C. 27611-5201

DAVID MCCOY
SECRETARY

September 15, 1999

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Regulatory Field Office
Post Office Box 1000
Washington, NC 27889-1000

ATTENTION: Mr. Mike Bell
NCDOT Coordinator

Dear Mr. Bell:

SUBJECT: Permit Modification: Pea Island Mitigation Site, Dare County, State
Project No. 6.051029, TIP R-3113WM, COE Action ID No. 199404858.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) requests a modification to the Mitigation Plan (February 1995) for the Pea Island Mitigation Site in Dare County. The specific modification is with regard to monitoring methodologies for determination of vegetative success of the site.

The current Monitoring Plan for the site targets a success criteria of > 50 % of the plants living for at least three years. The monitoring methodology contained within the plan indicated that a determination of number of plants per acre would be made through the use of ten-15 feet square sample plots.

A conflict lies between the monitoring methodology and the type of vegetation planted. A determination of plants per acre is more appropriate for woody species of vegetation. The Pea Island Mitigation site was planted with grasses and other herbaceous species where a per cent areal cover determination is more appropriate ("Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual", 1987).

Therefore, the NCDOT requests that the Monitoring Plan for the Pea Island Mitigation Site be revised to state that vegetative success criteria will be > 50 % areal coverage of grasses and other herbaceous vegetative species for a period of at least three

years. Vegetation will be monitored in the previously established ten-15 feet square monitoring plots.

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Bruce Ellis at (919) 733-1203.

Sincerely,

William D. Gilmore, PE, Branch Manager
Planning Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch

cc: Mr. Doug Huggett, NCDCM, Raleigh
Mr. David Franklin, Corps of Engineers, Wilmington Field Office
Mr. John Dorney, NCDENR, Division of Water Quality
Mr. David Cox, NCWRC
Mr. Calvin Leggett, P.E., Program Development Branch
Ms. Debbie Barbour, P.E., Highway Design Branch
Mr. A. L. Hankins, P.E., Hydraulics Unit
Mr. William J. Rogers, P.E., Structure Design Unit
Mr. John Alford, P.E., Roadway Design Unit
Mr. D. R. Conner, PE, Division 1 Engineer