



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 1890
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890

IN REPLY REFER TO

December 18, 2000

Regulatory Division

Action ID No. 199404858; T.I.P. No. R-3113

Mr. William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development & Environmental Analysis
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

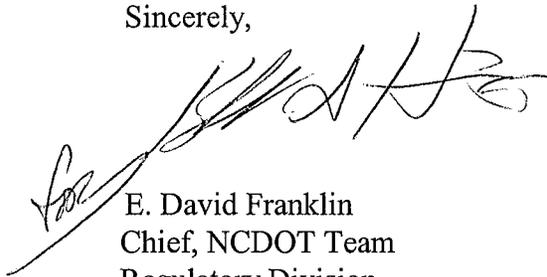
Dear Mr. Gilmore:

Reference the Department of the Army Permit (Action ID: 199404858) and State Permit No. 40-95, issued to the North Carolina Department of Transportation on April 10, 1995, associated with the relocation of NC Highway 12, adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, in Dare County, North Carolina (State Project No. 6.051029, TIP No. R-3113). Also reference your subsequent written request dated May 8, 2000, to discontinue monitoring at the Pea Island Mitigation Site and to modify the permit to change the areal coverage success criteria.

The request to discontinue monitoring was coordinated during the annual interagency mitigation meeting on February 18, 2000, with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality, and other appropriate State and Federal agencies. This coordination revealed no objections to this request. The site was determined to be a successful wetland mitigation effort and no permit modification is necessary. Therefore, we agree with your recommendation to discontinue monitoring at this site.

Any questions regarding this correspondence may be directed to Mr. Michael Bell, NCDOT Coordinator/Regulatory Project Manager at the Washington Regulatory Field Office, telephone (252) 975-1616, extension 26.

Sincerely,



E. David Franklin
Chief, NCDOT Team
Regulatory Division

406

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HRG

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT



August 1, 2000



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V. Charles Bruton, Ph.D.
Assistant Branch Manager
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SUBJECT: Pea Island Mitigation Site, Dare County, State Project No. 6.051029, TIP No. R-3113WM, COE Action ID No. 199404858. CAMA Permit No. 40-95.

Dr. Bruton:

This letter is in response to letters dated September 15, 1999 and May 8, 2000 from the NC Department of Transportation (NC DOT) to the NC Division of Coastal Management (NC DCM) regarding the above referenced project.

The September 15th NC DOT letter requests a modification to the revised mitigation plan for the Pea Island mitigation site dated February 1995 for the proposed relocation of NC 12 from four miles south of Oregon Inlet to six miles south of Oregon Inlet in Dare County, TIP No. R-3113. The current monitoring plan for the site targets a vegetation success criteria of >50% of the plants living for at least 3 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 foot square sample plots.

NC DCM hereby approves NC DOT's proposal 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-foot square plots. A determination of plants per acre is no longer required. Condition No. 8 of the CAMA Permit for this project requires that monitoring is conducted to attest evolution of wetland vegetation and hydrology. Because the CAMA Permit does not specifically identify the monitoring methodology, a CAMA permit modification is not required.

The May 8th NC DOT letter requests discontinuing monitoring of the Pea Island mitigation site. It appears, according to the information provided in your letter and in the 1999 annual monitoring report, that the vegetation and hydrologic success criteria have been met. We can, therefore, agree with your recommendation to discontinue monitoring at this site.



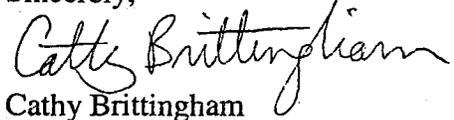
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We are pleased the site has exceeded the success criteria as specified in the revised mitigation plan dated February 1995: (1) vegetation coverage of >50% plants living for at least 3 years; and (2) hydrologic success criteria of soil saturation to within 12 inches of the surface for at least 12.5% of the growing season.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Williams or me at (919) 733-2293.

Sincerely,



Cathy Brittingham
Transportation Project Coordinator

cc: Mike Bell, USACE
David Cox, NC WRC
John Hennessy, NC DWQ
Heather Montague, NC DOT
Beth Smyre, NC DOT
Kelly Williams, P.W.S., DCM