



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

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LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

March 12, 2002

Mr. Doug Huggett
Division of Coastal Management
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Post Office Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687

Re: Bogue Sound Mitigation Site, Carteret County, TIP No. U-2226

Dear Mr. Huggett,

As you are aware, the Department has been actively monitoring Bogue Sound Mitigation Site for the past 6 years. The mitigation site is located in Carteret County, approximately 3,500 south of Morehead City and west of the bridge connecting Morehead City and Atlantic Beach. It consists of approximately 5.9 acres of salt marsh mitigation and is designed to offset marsh wetland impacts associated with project U-2226. The marsh impacts from the roadway project (1.02 acres) were debited from the Bogue Sound Mitigation Site. At a 2:1 mitigation ratio, this equates to a need of 2.04 acres of marsh restoration to satisfy the Bridges Street Extension (U-2226) permit requirements.

The above referenced mitigation site required vegetation monitoring for at least 5 consecutive years. Hydrologic monitoring was not required on the site. The Bogue Sound Mitigation Site has met wetland criteria for vegetation for year 2001, which is the sixth year of monitoring. The preservation/reference area has a frequency of 100% and a scale value of 4.8. The planted area has a frequency of 92.3% and a scale value of 4.2. The planted area is well within the 75% success criteria needed based on the reference system.

For the 2001-growing season, approximately 2.4 acres of the initially planted restoration area exhibit successful vegetation, per the success criteria for the site. While the entire 5.9-acre of restoration within the site was not a complete success, there is sufficient area of successful marsh restoration to offset the impacts of the Bridges Street Extension (U-2226) roadway project.

In conclusion and as per the 2001 Annual Monitoring Report for the mitigation site, NCDOT recommends discontinuing any further monitoring activities. In a meeting with Corps of Engineers representatives and resource agency representatives on March 7, 2002, agency personnel agreed that the site had achieved success and monitoring activities could be discontinued.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Mr. Randy Griffin, Natural Systems Engineer, at (919) 733-7844, ext. 294. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

V. Charles Bruton, Ph.D.
Assistant Branch Manager,
Project Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch

cc: file
Mr. Dave Timpy, COE
Mr. Scott McLendon, COE
Mr. David Franklin, COE
Ms. Cathy Brittingham, CAMA
Mr. John Hennessy, NCDWQ
Mr. Tom McCartney, USFWS
Mr. Ron Sechler, NMFS
Ms. Kathy Matthews, EPA
Mr. David Cox, NCWRC
Mr. Randy Griffin, NCDOT-PD&EA
Mr. Ken Pace, NCDOT-REU
Mr. Jim Trogdon PE, NCDOT-Division 4 Engineer