



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

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

R. SAMUEL HUNT III
SECRETARY

May 23, 1995

MEMORANDUM

To: John Williamson
Manager, Right of Way Branch

From: H. Franklin Vick, P.E.
Manager, Planning & Environmental Branch

Subject: Carteret County, TIP No. U-2226, State Project No.
9.8022831, Option to Purchase Willis Properties for Mitigation.

As you know, the R. E. Willis property was deemed unsuitable as a potential mitigation site due to its status as an open, unpermitted dump. Soil test results revealed levels of contamination that would preclude our interest in acquiring this property.

We also have had a consultant perform a feasibility study of the adjacent Malcolm Willis site and have received their report as of May 17, 1995. This study evaluated the property as to its suitability as a wetland mitigation site, addressing such issues as area hydrology, utilities existing on the property, and costs of the engineering improvements that would be necessary to make the site meet Corps of Engineers wetland requirements.

As a result of the consultant's reports, we have determined that neither property is feasible for NCDOT purchase for mitigation purposes.

The major factor which influenced this decision was that the costs of engineering improvements could not be justified for the acreage that would be available as mitigation. Access to an existing electric utility power line would have to be accommodated with numerous culverts and earthwork. A sewer line also crosses the property, and would have to be relocated. Also, some undesirable contaminants were found in the soil and water.

Thus, we are requesting that you do not exercise the option to buy either the R. E. Willis or the Malcolm Willis tracts. I also request that your office notify the landowners in writing as soon as possible of this decision, so that they may take up any other plans for the properties without delay.



We appreciate your help throughout this important study, and look forward to working with you on future sites.

HFV/tp

cc: B. J. O'Quinn, P.E., Asst. Manager, P & E Branch
David Robinson, P.E., Permits and Mitigation Unit Head
Dennis Pipkin, P.E., Mitigation Section Supervisor
Albert Joyner, Division 2 ROW Agent
Scott Gottfried, Permit Specialist