



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

October 9, 2009

Mr. M. Derrick Myers
Project Biologist
Newkirk Environmental, Inc.
P.O. Box 746
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465-0746

Re: East Edisto Business Park
Dorchester County, South Carolina
NEI Job #01-265c
FWS Log No. 2009-I-0654

Dear Mr. Myers:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your September 22, 2009, letter regarding the above-referenced project. The proposed project involves construction of a new East Edisto Business Park on an approximately 381 acre tract of land in Dorchester County, South Carolina. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667e), and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). If impacts to wetlands or streams are anticipated, the Service recommends contacting the Army Corps of Engineers for further guidance.

Based upon our review of the submitted protected species assessment and protected species databases, it does not appear that suitable habitat for federally listed species is present on the proposed site. However, we are concerned about the potential degradation of South Carolina streams and water quality.

In order to protect wildlife and their habitats the Service recommends using Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will ensure that development is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. BMPs can reduce, but not eliminate, the loading of common storm-water pollutants. Designs that collect runoff and allow it to infiltrate the soil have the highest documented pollutant-removal efficiency, eliminating nearly all lead, zinc, and solids and more than 50 percent of total phosphorous. Ponds and wetlands, which allow contaminants to settle out of the water column or to be broken down by sunlight and biological activity, can remove more than 70 percent of bacteria.

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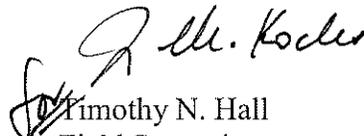
We offer the following recommendations to help address secondary and cumulative impacts associated with this project and to help minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources:

- Avoid fill or adverse modification of streams and wetlands on site.
- Phase construction to reduce the time and area that disturbed soils are exposed.
- Stabilize soils as rapidly as possible (<2 weeks) by establishing a grass or mulch cover.
- Establish appropriate perimeter controls at the edge of the construction site to retain or filter concentrated runoff from relatively short distances before it leaves the site.
- Sedimentation impacts should be minimized by regular inspection of erosion control measures, and sediment control devices should be maintained in good and effective condition at all times. Erosion and sediment controls should be reassessed after storms. The incorrect installation of erosion control structures and those not properly maintained can result in sedimentation impacts to nearby streams and wetlands.

Based on our review and the information received we concur with your determination that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources under the jurisdiction of the Service that are currently protected by the Act. In view of this, the Service believes that the requirements of section 7 of the Act have been fulfilled relative to the proposed action, and no further consultation is necessary at this time. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals that the proposed project may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, (2) the proposed project is subsequently modified to include activities which were not considered during this consultation; or (3) new species are listed or critical habitat designated that might be affected by the proposed project.

Your interest in ensuring the protection of endangered species is appreciated. In order to facilitate future consultation requests, please include project Latitude and Longitude coordinates in those requests. Failure to include this information in the project description may increase processing time beyond our normal 30-day review period. If you should have any questions, please contact Morgan Wolf at (843)727-4707, ext. 219 and reference FWS Log No. 2009-I-0654.

Sincerely,


Timothy N. Hall
Field Supervisor

TNH/MKW