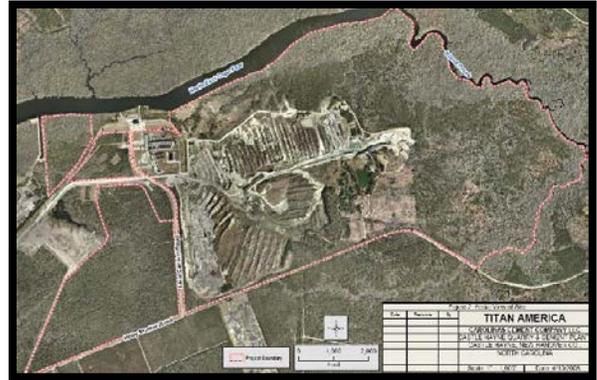




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

Carolinas Cement Company, LLC
Cement Manufacturing Facility and
Quarry
Near Castle Hayne, New Hanover, North
Carolina
(Regulatory)

- **Proposed project will impact approximately 600 acres of wetlands.**
- **Current concerns are related to impacts to fishery resources in the Northeast Cape Fear River, wetland impacts and air quality.**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC-07

Date: 8 April 2013

1. **PURPOSE:**

To provide information on the Carolinas Cement Company's (CCC) proposal to construct cement manufacturing facility and quarry near Castle Hayne, New Hanover County, North Carolina.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

The proposed Castle Hayne quarry and cement plant is located in Castle Hayne, in New Hanover County, NC. It would be located on an approximately 1,868-acre site located on Ideal Cement Road approximately 2.6 miles east of Interstate 40 and north of Holly Shelter Road. The project site is bordered to the north by the Northeast Cape Fear River, to the east by Island Creek, and to the south by Holly Shelter Road. This site includes undeveloped forested lands, an existing aggregate quarry pit currently operated by Martin Marietta Materials, as well as an inactive cement manufacturing plant, formerly operated by Ideal Cement. It is located in an area zoned as I-2 Industrial District. The quarrying and cement manufacturing would be compatible with the existing zoning. The initial project proposal would impact approximately 600 acres of wetlands and waters of the US. Because of the amount of wetland impacts associated with the proposed project, CCC elected to proceed with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

a. In cooperation with the state and federal resource agencies, CCC is developing an Aquatic Resource Study to identify aquatic resources in the area of the proposed project site. CCC is also

PROJECT INFORMATION – Carolinas Cement Company, LLC Cement Manufacturing Facility and Quarry Near Castle Hayne, New Hanover, North Carolina (Regulatory) – Continued

performing other environmental investigations (wetlands, ESA, cultural resources) at their proposed site and will provide that information when the studies are complete. CCC has released a Mercury Human Health Risk Assessment Study on the proposed project for public review. The Corps nor any other state or federal agency was involved in the development of this study.

b. An interagency/stakeholder meeting was planned in November 2008 to review documentation on the purpose and need statement and the development of alternatives. However, this meeting was cancelled due to a substantial modification made by CCC to not impact public trust waters adjacent to the Northeast Cape Fear River and Island Creek (approximately 200 acres of inundated swamp). The CCC provided a modified proposal that eliminates any impacts to the Northeast Cape Fear River and Island Creek in order to decrease impacts to fishery resources. However, this modification increased wetland impacts from approximately 600 acres to 1,007 acres. This increase of wetland impacts is a result of CCC's proposal to mine the rock resource further away from the river, which is thinner at this location. As a result of this modification, the project will not require a Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act permit, but will still require a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An interagency/stakeholder meeting was held on February 5, 2008, reviewing the modified project, the proposed project's purpose and need statement and level one alternatives analysis. The interagency/stakeholders have reviewed the documentation and provided their comments.

c. The Corps reviewed the comments/responses received from the group and made appropriate changes to the purpose and need statement and level one alternatives analysis. The Corps requested more information from CCC to address the potential alternative of importing cement to the target market service area.

d. CCC contacted the Corps in July 2009, and advised that they were temporarily stopping the EIS process until they resolved air quality permit issues. CCC was issued an Air Quality Permit February 2012. To date, CCC has not contacted the Corps to continue the EIS process on the proposed project.