FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

HOOKERTON, NC SECTION 14 EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE EROSION PROTECTION PROJECT

OCTOBER 2015
The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, requires consideration of the environmental impacts for major federal actions. The proposed action and the environmental impacts of the proposed action were addressed in the Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment, Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project (DPR/EA) dated September 2015. The DPR/EA was coordinated with various regulatory agencies and the public, and comment letters were received after a 30-day review period. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents environmental considerations, and the determination that no significant impacts would occur should the proposed action be implemented. The DPR/EA and FONSI have been prepared pursuant to NEPA in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 to 1508), which direct federal agencies to implement the provisions of NEPA, and pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Department of the Army procedures for implementing NEPA (33 CFR Part 230).

**Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives:**

The DPR/EA dated September 2015 describes the proposed action as the Recommended Plan. The Recommended Plan would provide reliable protective measures to prevent the ongoing streambank erosion at the site from destructively impacting the dike of Lagoon (Lagoon #1) at the Town of Hookerton, NC’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) (Figure 1). This plan is authorized under Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act and is acceptable to the USACE and local sponsor. The Recommended Plan would protect a public facility that is used to provide essential public services and is in imminent threat of damage caused by natural erosion processes on the Contentnea Creek (Creek) streambank. The Recommended Plan would consist of removal of the existing State-constructed protective measures placed along the most severely eroded 50-foot section of stream bank and placement of a sloping layer of stone (riprap) along a stretch of approximately 550 linear feet of shoreline where erosion threatens the Lagoon dike. Formulation and evaluation focused on the alternative with minimal adverse environmental impacts and the least cost. Alternative actions included the No Action alternative, wherein no stabilization measures would be implemented under this authority, and installation of articulating concrete blocks in a footprint similar to that of the Recommended Plan. While all alternatives, with the exception of the No Action alternative, would meet the purpose and need, only stone (riprap) slope protection would be both environmentally acceptable with minimal impacts, and have the lowest cost.

**Public and Agency Coordination:**

On July 27, 2015, the DPR/EA, dated July 2015, was mailed to Federal and State agencies, local communities, and the interested public for a 30-day review and comment period.
As a result of this review period, comments yielded refinements to the construction schedule of the proposed action (Appendix A). Comments received during the review period were reviewed and considered in making the decision to sign a FONSI for this proposed action (Appendix B).

a. **Summary of Environmental Resources and Impacts:**

   Section 6.0 of the DPR/EA provides information on the affected environment present in the proposed project area, which is located in Hookerton, Greene County, North Carolina. The probable consequences (impacts and effects) of the Recommended Plan, articulating concrete block alternative, and the No Action alternative on environmental resources in the proposed project area were evaluated. No adverse long-term effects would be expected should either the Recommended Plan or articulating concrete block alternative be implemented, and upland disturbed areas would be re-vegetated with grasses or other native plants upon project completion. For the No Action alternative, no adverse environmental impacts would occur; however, should the dike at the WWTP Lagoon fail due to continued erosion of the Creek streambank, between 2.5 and 3.6 million gallons of raw sewage would discharge directly into the Creek. This would result in a high degree of environmental damage due to water contamination, and a disruption of critical wastewater treatment services to the Town.

b. **Facts and Conclusions Leading to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):**

   Based on an analysis of the alternatives, it has been determined that the Recommended Plan would not produce any long-term adverse environmental effects in the proposed project area, and upland disturbed areas would be re-vegetated with grasses or other native plants upon project completion. Proceeding with the Recommended Plan as described in the DPR/EA would not significantly or adversely impact the environment. Additionally, no significant cumulative effects would be expected.

c. **Finding of No Significant Impact:**

   I have reviewed the Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment, Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project (DPR/EA), the information provided by interested parties, and the information contained in this Finding of No Significant Impact. I find that the Recommended Plan would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, is not required.

   
   
   20 Oct 2015
   Date

   Kevin P. Landers Sr.
   Colonel, U.S. Army
   District Commander
Figure 1. Location of Town of Hookerton and the WWTP.
APPENDIX A

Public Comments and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Responses

Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment

Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project

Comment 1: The Wilmington District’s initial determination is the proposed project is not within waters designated essential fish habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the NMFS agrees with this determination.

Response 1: Acknowledged.

Comment 2: Contentnea Creek is an important stream for anadromous fish. While the NMFS prefers shoreline stabilization be done without armor, the NMFS understands the current situation at the Hookerton WWTP is a special case. A failure of the bank resulting in the lagoon discharging into the creek would likely have a severe effect on habitat used by anadromous fish. The NMFS also notes project plans appear to avoid impacting streambank vegetation to the extent practicable. Consequently, the NMFS has no objection to the Wilmington District stabilizing the streambank at the Hookerton WWTP as described in the EA other than to request in-water work not occur between February 15 and June 30, if practicable, to further limit potential impacts to anadromous fish.

Response 2: The US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (Corps) is aware of the in-water construction moratorium spanning February 15-June 30 which exists to allow use of Contentnea Creek by anadromous fishes such as herring and shad. The Corps is also aware that this moratorium has been designed to capture annual differences in fish behavior (migration, reproduction, etc.) due to variable environmental conditions, and that actual anadromous fish presence in the project area may begin later than February 15 and end earlier than June 30 depending on these annually variable environmental conditions.

Appendix C of the Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the moratorium. It is assumed that project funds will be available in FY16 and construction could start in March 2016 with a one year contract period. Environmental restrictions limit in-stream operations between February 15 and June 30. To avoid work during the moratorium, initial construction tasks will focus on improving the construction access road, obtaining materials and preparing the upland portion of the site as required. The midpoint of construction is estimated to be the 4th quarter FY16.

Although these assumptions of construction timeline may hold true, should resources become available to begin in-water construction prior to June 30, 2016, the implementation of robust protective measures at that time would help assure the stability of the dike at lagoon #1 of Hookerton, NC's waste water treatment
plant and eliminate the increasing possibility of failure due to streambank erosion. Should the dike fail prior to construction of the proposed action described in the EA, 2.5-3.6 million gallons of raw sewage would be discharged directly into Contentnea Creek.

In-water construction activity will be contained landward of an NCDOT Type 2 turbidity curtain and the anticipated duration of in-water construction activity is between 7 and 14 days, dependent on weather and flow conditions. The turbidity curtain will be placed approximately 5 feet westward of the structure’s toe. A portion of Contentnea Creek (towards eastward bank) will be unavailable to fishes during in-water construction activity; however, at least half of the creek width, which will include the deepest portion of the creek channel, will remain available to fish passage.

Should in-water construction be necessary prior to June 30, 2016, prior to any in-water construction, the Corps will coordinate with NMFS, USFWS, and NCWRC regarding anadromous fish presence in Contentnea Creek and the possibility of initiating in-water construction activity.


Comment 1: The project, as described in the Report, is expected to have minimal adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Therefore, we have no objection to the activity as described in the Report.

Response 1: Acknowledged.

Comment 2: However, as we have discussed, this conclusion is based upon the Corps conducting any in-water work outside of the February 15 thru June 30 anadromous fish moratorium period. This is consistent with the schedule specified in paragraph 5 on page C-4 of Appendix C of the Report. The Service remains committed to working with the Corps to determine when the spawn is concluded. This may allow work to begin prior to June 30. Also, should the temporary repairs fail and the lagoons be in immediate danger, the Service will reconsider this recommendation.

Response 2: See Response 2 in Section A.1, above.

Comment 3: In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (ESA) and based on the information provided, and other available information, it appears the action is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species or their critical habitat as defined by the ESA. We believe that the requirements of section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied for this project. Please remember that obligations under the ESA must be reconsidered if: (1) new information identifies
impacts of this action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or, (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Response 3: Acknowledged. Should the proposed action be modified, or new information concerning affects to federally listed threatened and endangered species in the project area become available prior to construction, the Corps will continue coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service so that requirements of section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA remain satisfied.


Comment 1: The NCWRC has reviewed the proposed plan and does not object to this project.

Response 1: Acknowledged.

Comment 2: However, we do recommend the project adhere to the February 15 – June 30 anadromous fish moratorium as stated in the EA to minimize elevated turbidity and noise levels during construction. It is understood that this may require additional planning and scheduling considerations, but believe that it is possible to follow this guidance. We appreciate the cooperation demonstrated by the USACE, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a working relationship to insure the project can be conducted and resources protected to the greatest extent practicable. We request continued cooperation and communication prior to and during construction so project progress can be monitored and assistance provided as needed.

Response 2: See Response 2 in Section A.1. Additionally, the Corps will exercise continued cooperation and communication with the NCWRC, as requested, prior to and during construction so project progress can be monitored and assistance provided as needed.


Comment 1: Attached are tables showing records from the NCNHP database for element occurrences (rare species and natural communities), natural areas, and conservation/managed areas that have been documented within the project area and within a one-mile radius of the project area. Also attached is a map that shows
natural heritage resources documented within a one-mile radius of the project area. The locations of natural areas and conservation/managed areas may be viewed by accessing the Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) online map viewer, or by downloading and using GIS data; both options are available from the NCNHP Data Services webpage (see www.ncnhp.org).

Please note that occurrences of rare species documented within one mile of the proposed project area increase the likelihood that these species may be present within the project area if suitable habitat exists. The use of Natural Heritage Program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys if needed, particularly if the project area contains suitable habitat for rare species. If rare species are found during field surveys, the NCNHP would appreciate receiving this information so that we may update our database.

**Response 1:** The Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) online map viewer (www.ncnhp.org) was queried during development of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed action. Results of this query are featured in Table 6.11.1 and include the *Noturus furiosus* (Carolina Madtom) and *Somatochlora georgiana* (Coppery Emerald); both of which were specifically referenced by NCNHP as part of its submitted comment package. The Corps acknowledges that use of Natural Heritage Program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys; however, both the Carolina Madtom and Coppery Emerald are highly mobile species and not likely to be adversely affected by construction activity. Furthermore, due to relatively short construction duration and minimizing necessary clearing, it is unlikely that these species would be adversely affected by the proposed plan. Should occurrences of these species be documented during construction activity, the NCNHP will be identified so that records may be updated.

**A.5 North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality – Comments received via State Environmental Clearinghouse packet received September 9, 2015. Memorandum dated August 21, 2015.**

**Comment 1:** No Comment.

**Response 1:** Acknowledged.

**A.6 North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, Public Water Supply Section – Comments received via State Environmental Clearinghouse packet received September 9, 2015. Memorandum dated August 27, 2015.**

**Comment 1:** No Comment.

**Response 1:** Acknowledged.

Comment 1: Any open burning associated with subject proposal must be in compliance with 15A NCAC 2D.1900.

Response 1: The proposed action will not include any open burning.

Comment 2: Demolition or renovations of structures containing asbestos material must be in compliance with 15A NCAC 20.1110(a)(1) which requires notification and removal prior to demolition. Contact Asbestos Control Group 919-707-5950.

Response 2: The proposed action will not include any demolition or renovations of structures.

Comment 3: The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 must be properly addressed for any land disturbing activity. An erosion & sedimentation control plan will be required if one or more acres to be disturbed. Plan filed with proper Regional Office (Land Quality Section) At least 30 days before beginning activity. A fee of $65 for the first acre or any part of an acre. An express review option is available with additional fees.

Response 3: As stated in the Environmental Assessment for the proposed action, clearing (land disturbance) will be less than one acre, therefore, an erosion & sedimentation control plan will not be required.


Comment 1: The Surface Water Protection Section reviewed the subject project and has no comments.

Response 1: Acknowledged.

Comment 2: Concerns in construction details and Neuse River riparian buffers will be addressed during the permitting phase of this project.

Response 2: Acknowledged. Coordination regarding concurrence with the applicability of General Certification (GC) No. 3885 to the proposed action is ongoing. By letter dated September 4, 2015, the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR), 401 & Buffer Permitting Unit was requested to assess applicability of GC No. 3885. This letter was accompanied by five copies of a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) Form describing the proposed action, and a check in the amount of $240 made
payable to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Construction of the proposed action will not begin until DWR concurrence is received.

**Comment 3:** Should the proposed project change during implementation, this Office should be contacted.

**Response 3:** Acknowledged. Should the recommended plan change, prior to construction, the Corps will contact and coordinate with the NC Division of Water Resources, Surface Water Protection Section.

**A.9 North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management – Comments**

Received via State Environmental Clearinghouse packet received September 9, 2015. Memorandum dated August 18, 2015.

**Comment 1:** Executive Order 11988 requires an eight-step review process that agencies should carry out as part of their decision-making on projects that have potential impacts to or within the floodplain. Any work within the SFHA of studies streams, based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map, should follow these guidelines in order to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. The eight steps are summarized below.

a) Determine if a proposed action is in the base floodplain (that area which has a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year).

b) Conduct early public review, including public notice.

c) Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating in the base floodplain, including alternative sites outside of the floodplain.

d) Identify impacts of the proposed action.

e) If impacts cannot be avoided, develop measures to minimize impacts and restore and preserve the floodplain, as appropriate.

f) Reevaluate alternatives.

g) Present the findings and a public explanation.

h) Implement the action.

**Response 1:** Wetlands and floodplains are addressed in section 6.3 of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed action. The NC Floodplain Mapping Program (http://www.ncfloodmaps.com/) was queried in determining the proposed action’s impact to floodplains. The proposed project area, in its entirety, is located within the 100-year floodplain of Contentnea Creek. The Corps has determined that the proposed action will be in full compliance with Executive Order 11988 upon satisfaction of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. To address the eight-step review process provided in this NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management comment:
a) The proposed action is in the base floodplain (that area which has a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year). See Figure 6.3.1 of the Environmental Assessment.

b) A public notice was issued on 27 July 2015, the same time the Environmental Assessment was circulated for 30-day public review.

c) No practical alternatives exist outside of the base floodplain. Section 5.2 of the Environmental Assessment states that for the Section 14 authority under which the proposed action is authorized, protection of the threatened facility must be less costly than relocation of the facility. Relocation if lagoon #1 to a site less vulnerable to erosion was investigated for economic justification of the project, but is cost-prohibitive.

d) Existing and future-without project conditions, and impacts of the proposed action and no action are discussed in Section 6.0 of the Environmental Assessment. Impacts to wetlands and floodplains are specifically discussed in section 6.3.

e) The proposed action (recommended plan) is described in detail in section 5.3 of the Environmental Assessment. Every effort will be taken to minimize potential harm to or within the floodplain by reducing the amount of material placed in the floodplain to only that which is required to protect the streambank. Due to the limited size and scope of the recommend plan, implementation is unlikely to result in adverse impacts to the adjacent floodplain. Any proposed action within the established floodway/floodplain will comply with state/local floodplain protection standards.

f) Alternatives were re-evaluated throughout the planning process for this emergency streambank and shoreline erosion protection project.

g) Findings were presented to the public in the form of an Environmental Assessment dated July 2015. This document was available for public review and comment for a 30-day period.

h) The proposed action has not yet been implemented. Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2016.

**Comment 2:** The project site is located in Greene County. Greene County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and enforces a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that requires a Floodplain Development Permit be issued for all development located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) within its jurisdiction. The site outlined in the application encroaches on the SFHA of Contentnea Creek. Please see Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels 4600 and 4620. Any grading, fill or placement of equipment or materials in the SFHA will require a floodplain development permit issued by Greene County.

**Response 2:** Acknowledged. As the proposed action is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), a Floodplain Development Permit will be obtained to satisfy Greene County, NC’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Coordination
regarding this permit will be initiated by the Corps during the design and implementation phase of the proposed action and work will not commence until the required permit has been issued.

**Comment 3:** The project will encroach on the floodway of Contentnea Creek. A hydraulic analysis shall be performed to determine the impact on flood levels during the base flood discharge due to the proposed construction. An increase in flood levels will require approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision prior to construction. No structures shall be impacted by the increase in flood levels. If there are no increases in flood levels, a “No-Rise” study and certification will be required prior to construction.

**Response 3:** Acknowledged. The Corps agrees that a hydraulic analysis to determine the impact on flood levels during base level discharge will be performed and that this analysis will assist in determining the need for a “No-Rise” study and certification. Additionally, a Letter of Map Revision will be coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Coordination regarding these items will occur during the design and implementation phase of the proposed action.


**Comment 1:** No comment.

**Response 1:** Acknowledged.


**Comment 1:** No comment.

**Response 1:** Acknowledged.
APPENDIX B

Public Comments Received

Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project
August 20, 2015

Elden J. Gatwood, Chief
Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1398

Attention: Justin Bashaw

Dear Mr. Gatwood:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the letter dated July 27, 2015, and the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hookerton, NC, Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project, dated July 2015. The purpose of the work is to prevent dike failure at Lagoon No. 1 of the Hookerton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) due to erosion and undercutting of the streambank by Contentnea Creek. The Wilmington District's initial determination is the proposed project is not within waters designated essential fish habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the NMFS agrees with this determination. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and diadromous fishery resources, the following comments and recommendations are provided pursuant to the authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The recommended plan consists of a layer of riprap placed over a layer of bedding stone along approximately 550 linear feet of streambank and extending for a distance of approximately 40 to 50 feet from the top of the existing streambank into the oxbow bend of Contentnea Creek adjacent to Lagoon No. 1. To accomplish the work, the streambank would be cleared and graded to a \( \frac{5}{3} : \frac{4}{3} \) to \( \frac{2}{1} : \frac{1}{1} \) slope (depending on segment) for placement of the streambank slope protection. Below the ordinary high water line, backfill material consisting of NCDOT No. 57 stone would be placed over a geotextile layer, graded, and compacted as required to provide a smooth sloped surface for the placement of the stone. Above the ordinary high water line, backfill material consisting of earthen fill would be placed on the existing cleared streambank, graded, and compacted as required to provide a smooth sloped surface for placement of the stone slope protection. The streambank slope protection measures would consist of a one-foot layer of bedding stone (NCDOT No. 57 stone) and a 27-inch thick layer of NCDOT Class II riprap placed over a layer of geotextile and graded fill slope. Toe protection would be placed along the toe of the stream bottom. The stone toe protection would be placed to distance of approximately 11 to 18 feet from the toe and to a height of approximately three feet above the stream bottom. Materials staging would take place in previously disturbed areas. Vegetative clearing not to exceed one acre may be required to accommodate necessary equipment.

Contentnea Creek is an important stream for anadromous fish. While the NMFS prefers shoreline stabilization be done without armor, the NMFS understands the current situation at the Hookerton WWTP is a special case. A failure of the bank resulting in the lagoon discharging into the creek would likely have a severe effect on habitat used by anadromous fish. The NMFS also notes project plans appear to avoid impacting streambank vegetation to the extent practicable. Consequently, the NMFS has no
objection to the Wilmington District stabilizing the streambank at the Hookerton WWTP as described in the EA other than to request in-water work not occur between February 15 and June 30, if practicable, to further limit potential impacts to anadromous fish.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please direct related questions or comments to the attention of Mr. Fritz Rohde at our Beaufort Field Office, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-9722, or at (252) 838-0828

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: COE, Justin.P.Bashaw@usace.army.mil
    USFWS, Pete_Benjamin@fws.gov
    F/SER4, David.Dale@noaa.gov
    F/SER47, Fritz.Rohde@noaa.gov
United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh ES Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

September 3, 2015

Elden J. Gatwood
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, NC 28402

Re: Hookerton NC Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Gatwood:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your July 27, 2015 letter and copy of the Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment for Hookerton, NC Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project (Report). The project, as described in the Report, is expected to have minimal adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Therefore, we have no objection to the activity as described in the Report. However, as we have discussed, this conclusion is based upon the Corps conducting any in-water work outside of the February 15 thru June 30 anadromous fish moratorium period. This is consistent with the schedule specified in paragraph 5 on page C-4 of Appendix C of the Report. The Service remains committed to working with the Corps to determine when the spawn is concluded. This may allow work to begin prior to June 30. Also, should the temporary repairs fail and the lagoons be in immediate danger, the Service will reconsider this recommendation.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (ESA) and based on the information provided, and other available information, it appears the action is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species or their critical habitat as defined by the ESA. We believe that the requirements of section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied for this project. Please remember that obligations under the ESA must be reconsidered if: (1) new information identifies impacts of this action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or, (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed action. Should you have any questions regarding the project, please contact John Ellis at (919) 856-4520, extension 26.

Sincerely,

Pete Benjamin,
Field Supervisor

cc: NMFS, Beaufort, NC
EPA, Atlanta, GA
WRC, Raleigh
Re: SCH File # 16-E-0000-0035; EA; Proposed is for the Hookerton, NC Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection project.

Dear Mr. Bashaw:

The above referenced environmental impact information has been submitted to the State Clearinghouse under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. According to G.S. 113A-10, when a state agency is required to prepare an environmental document under the provisions of federal law, the environmental document meets the provisions of the State Environmental Policy Act. Attached to this letter for your consideration are the comments made by agencies in the course of this review.

If any further environmental review documents are prepared for this project, they should be forwarded to this office for intergovernmental review.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Crystal Best
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments

cc: Region P
MEMORANDUM

TO:       Crystal Best
           State Clearinghouse

FROM:    Lyn Hardison
           Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
           Permit Assistance & Project Review Coordinator

RE:   16-0035
       Environmental Assessment
       Proposed is for the Hookerton, NC Section 14 Streambank and EMERGENCY Shoreline
       Erosion protection project
       Greene County

Date: September 4, 2015

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the proposal for the referenced project. The comments are attached for the applicant's review.

The Department's agencies will continue to be available to assist the applicant through the environmental review processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Attachment
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lyn Hardison, Environmental Assistance Coordinator  
NCDENR Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach (DEAO)

FROM: Maria T. Dunn, Coastal Region Coordinator  
Habitat Conservation Program

DATE: August 31, 2015

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for Hookerton, NC Section 14 Streambank and EMERGENCY Shoreline Erosion Protection Project, Greene County, North Carolina  
OLIA No. 16-0035

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) with regard to impacts of the project on fish and wildlife resources. Our comments are provided in accordance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (G.S. 113A-1 et seq., as amended; 1 NCAC-25), provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), Coastal Area Management Act (G.S. 113A-100 through 113A-128), as amended and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (as amended).

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has submitted a plan to stabilize the shoreline adjacent to the Town of Hookerton’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This facility has a series of wastewater lagoons, one of which is in danger of breaching into Contentnea Creek. A temporary measure was installed May 2015 to provide additional time until a more long term measure could be implemented. The preferred alternative presented by the USACE and supported by Hookerton is to harden approximately 550’ of shoreline with geotextile and riprap from the bank down to the bottom contour. To minimize elevated turbidity levels and prevent debris from entering the construction area, the work will be conducted behind a turbidity curtain, closing approximately one half of creek width in this area during construction. Contentnea Creek...
is designated an anadromous fish spawning area (AFSA) by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The NCWRC has reviewed the proposed plan and does not object to the project. However, we do recommend the project adhere to the February 15 – June 30 anadromous fish moratorium as stated in the EA to minimize elevated turbidity and noise levels during construction. It is understood that this may require additional planning and scheduling considerations, but believe that it is possible to follow this guidance. We appreciate the cooperation demonstrated by the USACE, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service to establish a working relationship to insure the project can be conducted and resources protected to the greatest extent practicable. We request continued cooperation and communication prior to and during construction so project progress can be monitored and assistance provided as needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EA. If there are any additional comments, questions, or if our agency can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (252) 948-3916 or at maria.dunn@ncwildlife.org.
TO: Lyn Hardison, NCDENR State Clearinghouse Coordinator
FROM: Allison (Schwari) Weakley, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
SUBJECT: Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project, Greene County, North Carolina
REFERENCE: Project No. 16-0035

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) database for the proposed project referenced above. The NCNHP database shows an element occurrence record for *Noturus furiosus* (Carolina Madtom) located within Contentnea Creek and within the proposed project area.

Attached are tables showing records from the NCNHP database for element occurrences (rare species and natural communities), natural areas, and conservation/managed areas that have been documented within the project area and within a one-mile radius of the project area. Also attached is a map that shows natural heritage resources documented within a one-mile radius of the project area. The locations of natural areas and conservation/managed areas may be viewed by accessing the Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) online map viewer, or by downloading and using GIS data; both options are available from the NCNHP Data Services webpage (see www.ncnhp.org).

Please note that occurrences of rare species documented within one mile of the proposed project area increase the likelihood that these species may be present within the project area if suitable habitat exists. The use of Natural Heritage Program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys if needed, particularly if the project area contains suitable habitat for rare species. If rare species are found during field surveys, the NCNHP would appreciate receiving this information so that we may update our database.

Please feel free to contact me at Allison.Weakley@ncdenr.gov or 919-707-8629 if you have questions or if I can be of further assistance.
Natural Heritage Element Occurrences, Natural Areas, and Managed Areas Intersecting the Project Area
Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Project
Project No. 10-0035
August 27, 2015
NCNHP/DE-646

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element Occurrences Documented Within Project Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxonomic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Fish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No Natural Areas are Documented within the Project Area

No Managed Areas Documented within the Project Area

Definitions and an explanation of status designations and codes can be found at [www.sccathecouncil.org/speciesinformation]. Date query generated on August 27, 2015; source: NCNHP. On July 31, 2015. Please resubmit your information request if more than one year elapses before project initiation as new information is continually added to the NCNHP database.

Page 2 of 4
## Natural Heritage Element Occurrences, Natural Areas, and Managed Areas Within a One-mile Radius of the Project Area

**Location:** Havelock, NC Section 14 Emergency Strengthening and Shoreline Erosion Project  
**Project No.:** 16-0636  
**Date:** August 27, 2016  
**NCNHE-846**

### Element Occurrences Documented Within a One-mile Radius of the Project Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxonomic Group</th>
<th>EO ID</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Last Observation Date</th>
<th>Element Accuracy</th>
<th>Federal Status</th>
<th>State Status</th>
<th>Global Rank</th>
<th>State Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dragonfly</td>
<td>37750</td>
<td>Somatochlora georgiana</td>
<td>Coppery Emerald</td>
<td>2004-PRE</td>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>5-Very</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Significantly</td>
<td>G2G4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Fish</td>
<td>3726</td>
<td>Noturus furiosus</td>
<td>Carolina Madtom</td>
<td>1990-09-27</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>3-Medium</td>
<td>Species of Concern</td>
<td>Threatened</td>
<td>G2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Managed Areas Documented Within a One-mile Radius of the Project Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Managed Area Name</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Owner Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Easement</td>
<td>NC Department of Agriculture, Division Soil and Water Conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No Natural Areas are Documented Within a One-mile Radius of the Project Area

Definitions and an explanation of status designations and codes can be found at [https://www.nchp.state.nc.us/support/meth](https://www.nchp.state.nc.us/support/meth). Data query generated on August 27, 2016; source: NCNHP, 23 July 2015. Please redirect your information requests more than one year elapsed before project initiation as new information is continually added to the NCNHP database.
NCNHD-646: Hookerton, NC Section 14 Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Project

August 27, 2015

1:22 PM

Managed Area (MARSIA)

Natural Heritage Element Occurrence (NHEO)

Page 4 of 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit</th>
<th>Special Application Procedures or Requirements</th>
<th>Normal Process Time (Statutory Time Limit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permit to construct &amp; operate wastewater treatment facilities, sewer system extensions &amp; sewer systems not discharging into state surface waters.</td>
<td>Application 90 days before begin construction or award of construction contracts. On-site inspection. Post-application technical conference usual.</td>
<td>30 days (90 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPDES: permit to discharge into surface water and/or permit to operate and construct wastewater facilities discharging into state surface waters.</td>
<td>Application 180 days before begin activity. On-site inspection, Pre-application conference usual. Additionally, obtain permit to construct wastewater treatment facility general after NPDES. Reply time, 30 days after issuance of plans or issue of NPDES permit-whichever is later.</td>
<td>90-120 days (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Use Permit</td>
<td>Pre-application technical conference usually necessary</td>
<td>30 days (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Construction Permit</td>
<td>Complete application must be received and permit issued prior to the installation of a well.</td>
<td>7 days (7 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dredge and Fill Permit</td>
<td>Application copy must be served on each adjacent riparian property owner. On-site inspection, Pre-application conference usual. Filling may require Easement to Fill from N.C. Department of Administration and Federal Dredge and Fill Permit.</td>
<td>55 days (60 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit to construct &amp; operate Air Pollution Abatement facilities and/or Emission Sources as per 15 A NCAC (2Q.0100 thru 2Q.0300)</td>
<td>Application must be submitted and permit received prior to construction and operation of the source. If a permit is required in an area without local zoning, then there are additional requirements and timelines (2Q.0113).</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit to construct &amp; operate Transportation Facility as per 15A NCAC (2Q.0800, 2Q.0900)</td>
<td>Application must be submitted at least 90 days prior to construction or modification of the source.</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any open burning associated with subject project must be in compliance with 15 A NCAC 2Q.1900</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60 days (60 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition or removals of structures containing asbestos material must be in compliance with 15 A NCAC 20.1.1(10) (g) (1) which requires notification and removal prior to demolition. Contact Asbestos Control Group 919-707-5950.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60 days (90 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Source Permit required under 15 A NCAC 2Q.0800</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60 days (90 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 must be properly addressed for any land disturbing activity. An erosion &amp; sedimentation control plan will be required if one or more acres to be disturbed. Plan filled with proper Regional Office (Land Quality Section) at least 30 days before beginning activity. A fee of $65 for the first acre or any part of an acre. An express review option is available with additional fees.</td>
<td>20 days (30 days)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedimentation and erosion control must be addressed in accordance with NCDOT’s approved program. Particular attention should be given to design and installation of appropriate streamside sediment trapping devices as well as stable streamside conveyances and outlets.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30 days (90 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining Permit</td>
<td>On-site inspection usual. Surety bond filed with EHR. Bond amount varies with type mine and number of acres of affected land. Any area mined greater than one acre must be permitted. The appropriate bond must be received before the permit can be issued.</td>
<td>30 days (60 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Burning permit</td>
<td>On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources if permit exceeds 4 days</td>
<td>1 day (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ground Clearance Burning Permit - 22 counties in coastal N.C. with organic soils</td>
<td>On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources required “if more than five acres of ground clearing activities are involved. Inspections should be requested at least five days before actual burn is planned.”</td>
<td>1 day (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Refining Facilities</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>90-120 days (N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam Safety Permit</td>
<td>If permit is required, application 60 days before begin construction. Applicant must hire N.C. qualified engineer to prepare plans, inspect construction, certify construction is according to EHR approved plans. May also require permit under mosquito control program. A 404 permit from Corps of Engineers. An inspection of site is necessary to verify Hazard Classification. A minimum fee of $200.00 must accompany the application. An additional processing fee based on a percentage of the total project cost will be required upon completion.</td>
<td>30 days (60 days)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## County Greene

**Project Number:** 16-0035  **Due Date:** 8/31/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERMITS</th>
<th>SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>Normal Process Time (statutory time limits)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permit to drill exploratory oil or gas well</td>
<td>File a copy bond of $5,000 with ENR, causino to Suit of NC conditional that any well opened by drill operator shall, upon abandonment, be plugged according to ENR rules and regulations.</td>
<td>10 days N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geophysical Exploration Permit</td>
<td>Application filed with ENR at least 10 days prior to issue of permit. Application by later. No standard application form.</td>
<td>10 days N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Basin Construction Permit</td>
<td>Application fee based on structure size is charged. Must include descriptions &amp; drawings of structure &amp; proofs of ownership of riparian property.</td>
<td>15-30 days N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401 Water Quality Certification</td>
<td></td>
<td>60 days (150 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMA Permit for MAJOR development</td>
<td>$256.00 fee must accompany application</td>
<td>55 days (150 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMA Permit for MINOR development</td>
<td>$50.00 fee must accompany application</td>
<td>22 days (22 days)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several geodetic monuments are located in or near the project area. If any monument needs to be moved or destroyed, please notify N.C. Geodetic Survey, Box 27687 Raleigh, NC 27611.

Abandonment of any wells, if required, must be in accordance with Title 15A, Subchapter 2C.0100.

Notification of the proper regional office is required if "orphan" underground storage tanks (USTS) are discovered during any excavation operation.

Compliance with 15A NCAC 21H 1000 (Coastal Stormwater Rules) is required.

Catawba, Jordan Lake, Randolph, Tar Potomac or Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules required.

Plans and specifications for the construction, expansion, or alteration of a public water system must be approved by the Division of Water Resources/Public Water Supply Section prior to the award of a contract or the initiation of construction as per 15A NCAC 18C 2000 ss. Plans and specifications should be submitted to 1634 Mall Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. All public water supply systems must comply with state and federal drinking water monitoring requirements. For more information, contact the Public Water Supply Section, (919) 797-4000.

If existing water lines will be relocated during the construction, plans for the water line relocation must be submitted to the Division of Water Resources/Public Water Supply Section at 1634 Mall Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. For more information, contact the Public Water Supply Section, (919) 797-9100.

### REGIONAL OFFICES

Questions regarding these permits should be addressed to the Regional Office marked below.

- **Asheville Regional Office**
  - 2050 US Highway 70
  - Swannanoa, NC 28778
  - (828) 296-4500

- **Fayetteville Regional Office**
  - 225 North Green Street, Suite 714
  - Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043
  - (910) 433-3300

- **Mooresville Regional Office**
  - 610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301
  - Mooresville, NC 28115
  - (704) 665-1699

- **Raleigh Regional Office**
  - 3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101
  - Raleigh, NC 27609
  - (919) 791-4200

- **Washington Regional Office**
  - 943 Washington Square Mall
  - Washington, NC 27889
  - (252) 946-5481

- **Winston-Salem Regional Office**
  - 450 West Hanis Mill Road, Suite 300
  - Winston-Salem, NC 27105
  - (336) 771-9800

**February 11, 2015**
MEMO

To:      David Wainwright, P.E., Environmental Engineer, Water Quality Programs
         Lyn Hardison, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs

From:    Roberto L. Scheller, Senior Environmental Specialist

Subject: Comments on Project Review for Town of Hookerton Stream Bank Stabilization, Greene County (Project # 16-0035)

Date:    August 17, 2015

The Surface Water Protection Section reviewed the subject project and has no comments. Concerns in construction details and Neuse River riparian buffers will be addressed during the permitting phase of this project.

Should the proposed project change during implementation this Office should be contacted. If you should have any questions or require additional information you may e-mail me at roberto.scheller@ncdenr.gov or contact me by phone at 252-948-3940.
COUNTY: GREENE  

NO5: IRRIGATION/DRAINAGE/FLOOD CONTROL  

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-0000-0035  

DATE RECEIVED: 08/04/2015  

AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/31/2015  

REVIEW CLOSED: 09/03/2015  

MS CAROLYN PENNY  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
MSC # 4218  
RALEIGH NC  

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION  
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DENR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL  

PROJECT INFORMATION  
APPLICANT: Department of Army  
TYPE: National Environmental Policy Act  
Environmental Assessment  
DESC: Proposed is for the Hookerton, NC Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection project.  
The attached project has been submitted to the N. C. State Clearinghouse for intergovernmental review. Please review and submit your response by the above indicated date to 1301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1301.  
If additional review time is needed, please contact this office at (919)807-2425.  

AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: NO COMMENT  
COMMENTS ATTACHED  

SIGNED BY: [Signature]  
DATE: 18 AUG 2015
August 18, 2015

Subject: Intergovernmental Review State Number: 16-E-4600-0035
NC Section 14 Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Project, Greene County

As requested by the North Carolina State Clearinghouse, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management Risk Management reviewed the proposed project for the streambank stabilization along Contentnea Creek at the Hookerton Wastewater Treatment Facility and offers the following comments:

1) Executive Order 11988 requires an eight-step review process that agencies should carry out as part of their decision-making on projects that have potential impacts to or within the floodplain. Any work within the SFHA of studied streams, based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map, should follow these guidelines in order to avoid the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. The eight steps are summarized below.

   a. Determine if a proposed action is in the base floodplain (that area which has a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year).
   b. Conduct early public review, including public notice.
   c. Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating in the base floodplain, including alternative sites outside of the floodplain.
   d. Identify impacts of the proposed action.
   e. If impacts cannot be avoided, develop measures to minimize the impacts and restore and preserve the floodplain, as appropriate.
   f. Reevaluate alternatives.
   g. Present the findings and a public explanation.
   h. Implement the action.
2) The project site is located in Greene County. Greene County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and enforces a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that requires a Floodplain Development Permit be issued for all development located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) within its jurisdiction. The site outlined in the application encroaches on the SFHA of Contentnea Creek. Please see Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels 4600 and 4620. Any grading, fill or placement of equipment or materials in the SFHA will require a floodplain development permit issued by Greene County.

3) The project will encroach on the floodway of Contentnea Creek. A hydraulic analysis shall be performed to determine the impact on flood levels during the base flood discharge due to the proposed construction. An increase in flood levels will require approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision prior to construction. No structures shall be impacted by the increase in flood levels. If there are no increases in flood levels, a “No-Rise” study and certification will be required prior to construction.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have any questions concerning the above comments, please contact me at (919) 825-2300, by email at dan.brubaker@ncdps.gov or at the address shown on the footer of this document.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John D. Brubaker, P.E., CFM
NFIP Engineer
Risk Management

cc: John Dorman, Program Director
John Gerber, NFIP State Coordinator
Herbert H. Neily, State Construction Office
April Baker, Town Clerk, Town of Hookerton
Scott Sutton, Chief Building Inspector, Greene County

File
COUNTY: GREENE

HOS: IRRIGATION/DRAINAGE/FLOOD CONTROL

STATE NUMBER: 16-B-0000-0035

DATE RECEIVED: 08/04/2015

AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/31/2015

REVIEW CLOSED: 09/03/2015

MS CARRIE ATKINSON
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATWIDE PLANNING - MSC #1554
RALEIGH NC

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DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL

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If additional review time is needed, please contact this office at (919) 807-2425.

AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: □ NO COMMENT □ COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY: ___________________________________ DATE: 8/17/2015
MS RENEE GLEDHILL-EARLEY
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
MSC 4617 - ARCHIVES BUILDING
RALEIGH NC

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DENR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL

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AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: ☐ NO COMMENT ☐ COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY: RENEE GLEDHILL-EARLEY
DATE: 8/11/15