

Neuse River Basin Flood Risk Management Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment

Appendix F. Correspondence



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

April 2022

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NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

March 8, 2019

Colonel Robert J. Clark
Commander, Wilmington District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403

Dear Colonel Clark:

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) is willing and able to participate as the sponsor in a North Carolina River Basin Study, in partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively investigate the Neuse, Tar, and Lumber river basins (as available, within the USACE process) to update our collective knowledge, understanding, and potential mitigation requirements in each respective basin. In this study, our desired goal is to collect and analyze current data with the latest technology available to better understand and be prepared to mitigate impacts on the environment, community, and economy.

NCDEQ understands that a study cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study with associated allocation of Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, we intend to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) to initiate the study with USACE. NCDEQ understands the FCSA requires completion of the feasibility study within three years of the start date and at a total cost of no more than \$3 million. After signing the FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agreed upon by NCDEQ and USACE. The study will be conducted and managed by USACE. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the Federal government, with 50% contribution by NCDEQ provided in cash, or a portion or total contribution provided through in-kind non-monetary services.

NCDEQ is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study to address the specified water resources problems and is not a contractual obligation. We understand that work on the study cannot commence until it is included in the Administration's budget request, funds are appropriated by Congress, an FCSA is signed, and funds are available in NCDEQ. It is understood that NCDEQ or USACE may discontinue the study at any time after the FCSA is signed, but will commit to work together as partners during the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study that will provide the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to complete the study, our agency will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.



Please contact Coley Cordeiro at (919) 707-9013 or Coley.Cordeiro@ncdenr.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter. We look forward to collaborating with you on this project.

Sincerely, r



Michael S. Regan
Secretary, NCDEQ

cc: John Nicholson, NCDEQ
Linda Culpepper, NCDWR
Coley Cordeiro, NCDWR
Christine Brayman, Wilmington District, USACE





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

07/15/2020

F:SER/BR

Colonel Robert J. Clark, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

Attention: Elden J. Gatwood, Teresa Young

Re: Cooperating Agency Request for the Neuse River Flood Risk Management (FRM) Study

Dear Colonel Clark:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated June 26, 2020, requesting our participation as a cooperating agency on the Neuse River Basin FRM Study in North Carolina. NMFS's Habitat Conservation Division provided the Wilmington District with scoping comments for the Study on June 17, 2020. Based on the description of the project and our existing consultation workload, we are unable to devote any additional resources to serve as a Cooperating Agency on this Study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may still need to consult with NMFS on potential effects to species and critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), essential fish habitat (EFH) provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and/or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). Should you have any questions regarding consultation requirements or specific questions regarding potential effects to NOAA's trust resources, please contact Andrew Herndon at andrew.herndon@noaa.gov for ESA related assistance, and Fritz Rohde at fritz.rohde@noaa.gov for EFH and FWCA related assistance.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2020.07.15 11:39:00 -04'00'

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc:
NOAA NEPA
F/SER, Strelcheck, Blough, Silverman, Rosegger
F/SER3, Bernhart, Lamb, Shotts, Reece, Herndon
F/SER4, Fay, Wilber, Rohde

