



# United States Department of the Interior

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



December 16, 2008

Mr. Chris Daves  
S&ME, INC.  
134 Suber Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Pocotaligo Industrial Park – 320 Acres  
Sumter County, South Carolina  
S&ME Project No. 1614-08-425  
FWS Log No. 2009-I-0073.

Dear Mr. Daves:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your letter for the above-referenced project and offers the following comments. Our 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).

Based on a review of our records and your description of the project locations, we believe it is unlikely that any federally endangered or threatened species occur within the proposed project location in Sumter County. We would like to offer the following recommendations to help address potential secondary and cumulative impacts associated with your proposed project and to help minimize potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources related with the Pocotaligo River and swamp that occurs in the proposed project area:

1. Measures to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive resources, including freshwater wetlands, should be implemented during construction. We recommend a route that avoids forested wetlands to the maximum extent possible. Using existing highway right of ways will minimized the need to clear forested wetlands. The U. S. Corps of Engineers should be contacted to assist you in determining where wetlands are present or if a permit is required for this proposed activity.
2. Where impacts to wetlands are unavoidable, we recommend mitigation for the losses. In addition to providing wildlife habitat, wetland areas perform the important functions of flood control and water quality protection. Disturbed

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wetland areas should be returned to their original soils and contours. Plant communities should be reestablished that would result in wetland plant community succession into habitat of equal or greater value than the habitat that was destroyed. Temporarily disturbed wetlands should be reseeded with annual small grains appropriate for the season (e.g., oat, millet, rye, wheat, or ryegrass) and should be allowed to revert to natural wetland vegetation. The crossing of wetlands and streams should be minimized, located at narrow areas, and made perpendicular to the stream. We also recommend directional drilling for all stream and wetland crossings. Anti-seep collars may be necessary on pipes penetrating the dikes or embankments, to discourage seepage and scouring.

3. Efforts should be made to avoid the removal of large trees at the edges of the right-of-way corridors. Any disturbed areas should be reseeded with seed mixtures that are beneficial to wildlife. Fescue-based mixtures should be avoided; fescue is invasive and provides little benefit to wildlife. Native annual small grains appropriate for the season are preferred and recommended. Where feasible, use woody debris and logs from corridor clearing to establish brush piles and downed logs at the edge (just in the woods) of the cleared right-of-way to improve habitat for wildlife. Allowing the corridor area to develop into a brush/scrub habitat would maximize benefits to wildlife. Corridor maintenance should be minimized, and mowing should be prohibited between April 1 and October 1 in order to reduce impacts to nesting wildlife. We suggest a maintenance schedule that incorporates a portion of the area (e.g., one-third) each year instead of the entire project every 2 or 3 years. Additionally, herbicides should not be used in wetland areas or near streams.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed project. If you require additional assistance, please contact Tera Baird at (843) 727-4707 ext. 302. In future correspondence concerning the project, please reference FWS Log No. 2009-I-0073.

Sincerely,



Timothy N. Hall  
Field Supervisor