APPENDIX II: ENVIRONMENTAL

Port Royal Harbor Navigation Channel Disposition Study

September 2024

COPY OF PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS RECEIVED WITH USACE RESPONSES

PUBLIC NOTICE – COPY OF TEXT POSTED

The Port Royal Harbor Disposition Study is a federal study investigating whether a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel. Authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, a disposition study gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) the authority to evaluate a project which is no longer serving its authorized purpose.

Port Royal Harbor is in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The project is within the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton, SC Metropolitan area, which also includes the Town of Port Royal and City of Beaufort, as well as several smaller communities. About 5.8 miles of the Port Royal Harbor federal channel, between the entrance channel and the approach to the former Port, coincides with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW).

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, USACE, Charleston District, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Port Royal Harbor Disposition Study Integrated Report.

USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed action. Comments should be submitted in writing no later than 12 Noon on 26 June 2023 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, Attn: Andrea Hughes, or by e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil

PUBLIC NOTICE – SCREEN CAPTURE OF POSTING

Figure 1 provides a screen capture of the public notice posting, which is available at <https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/NEPA-Documents/>.

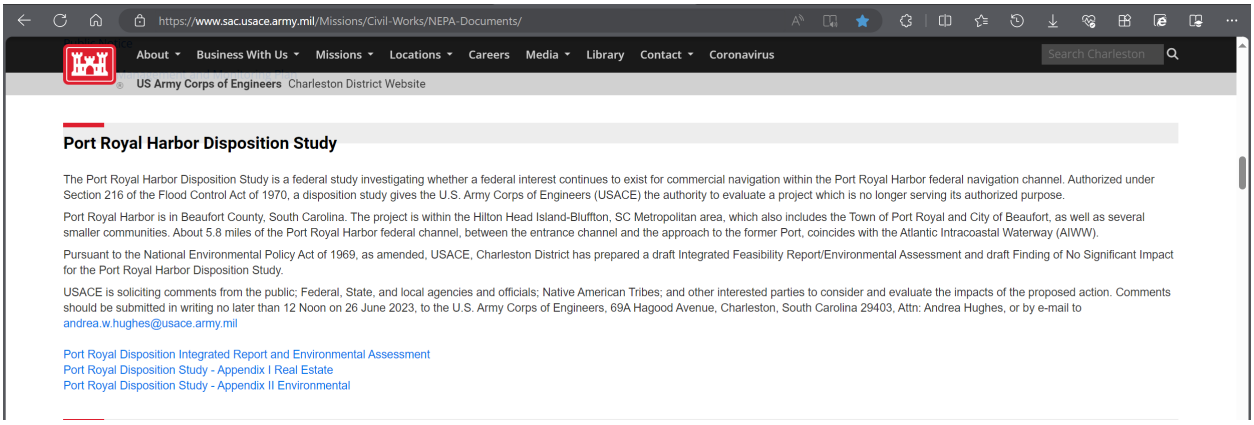


Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor Disposition Study Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE – COMMENTS

No comments were received.

AGENCY SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	pace.wilber@noaa.gov; Hightower, Charles; Stout, Christopher; Johnson, Elizabeth; Caldwell, Mark; Lorianne Riggin; SPIREK, JIM; Singh-White.Alya@epa.gov; EPA Kelly Laycock; Andy Herndon (andrew.herndon@noaa.gov)
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Monday, March 21, 2022 3:08:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Figure 1.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf

Dear Stakeholders,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil by COB 22 April 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
Cell: 843.566.3857

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

W. Eric Emerson, Ph.D.
Director, South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Dear Dr. Emerson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Corps assessed the effects of this undertaking on historic properties. Various terrestrial and submerged cultural resources surveys have been performed within the federal navigation channel and along the shoreline of the Port Royal Harbor. As documented in South Carolina's ArchSite and the Office of Coast Survey's Wrecks and Obstructions Database, there are known historic properties and submerged cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which is defined as a quarter-mile radius of the federal navigation channel. One archaeological site, Port Royal Site (38BU338/38BU482) is potentially eligible and is located within the APE. While several wrecks/obstructions are indicated within the APE, only the SS William Lawrence Shipwreck Site is NRHP-listed and documented as a National Register Point. Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve is nearby but outside the APE, so no impacts are anticipated.

Any of these resources within the navigation channel will continue to be under the State of South Carolina's jurisdiction. Therefore, the Corps believes that the resources will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance. Dredging will also no longer pose any potential impacts if the navigation channel is deauthorized. Due to these

reasons, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no effect to historic properties located within and along the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Charleston District requests your office provide concurrence on the no effect determination and requests any comments on the draft EA and draft FONSI (Enclosures 1-3). The documents are also available for review at https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/NEPA-Documents/. Please provide any comments regarding this proposed deauthorization within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

TRIBAL SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

23 March 2022

Planning and Environmental Branch

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Dr. Wenonah G. Haire
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of

issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments to Andrea Hughes, Planning and Environmental Branch, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to the e-mail provided above or contact Andrea Hughes at 843.566.3857.

Sincerely,

Nancy Parrish

Nancy Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Enclosures

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	106NAGPRA@astribe.com
Cc:	dfrazier@astribe.com
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:58:00 AM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

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Dear Ms. Frazier,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.329.8145

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: ryargee@alabama-quassarte.org
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 12:01:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Yargee,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: Karen.brunso@chickasaw.net
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:37:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Brunso,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	sbachor@delawaretribe.org
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:50:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Bachor,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	russtown@nc-cherokee.com
Cc:	Yerka, Stephen
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:04:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

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Dear Mr. Townsend,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	pbarton@estoo.net
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:30:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Barton,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: david.cook@kialegeetribe.net
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:52:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Cook,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	clowe@muscogeenation.com
Cc:	Section106@muscogeenation.com
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:28:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

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Dear Ms. Lowe-Zepeda,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: THPO@pci-nsn.gov
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Haikey,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To: tonya@shawnee-tribe.com
Subject: Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:31:00 PM
Attachments: Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf
Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf
Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Ms. Tipton,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	thpo@tttown.org
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:34:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

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Dear Mr. Cloud,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed the construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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Please send written comments to the address below or via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

From:	Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
To:	bprintup@hetf.org
Subject:	Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date:	Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:35:00 PM
Attachments:	Channel Condition Survey August 2021.pdf Port Royal Hydrographic Maps August 2021.pdf Figure 1 Location Map.docx

Dear Mr. Printup,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

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Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
843.566.3857

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Ms. Devon Frazier
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Dear Ms. Frazier:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Corps assessed the effects of this undertaking on historic properties. Various terrestrial and submerged cultural resources surveys have been performed within the federal navigation channel and along the shoreline of the Port Royal Harbor. As documented in South Carolina's ArchSite and the Office of Coast Survey's Wrecks and Obstructions Database, there are known historic properties and submerged cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which is defined as a quarter-mile radius of the federal navigation channel. One archaeological site, Port Royal Site (38BU338/38BU482) is potentially eligible and is located within the APE. While several wrecks/obstructions are indicated within the APE, only the SS William Lawrence Shipwreck Site is NRHP-listed and documented as a National Register Point. Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve is nearby but outside the APE, so no impacts are anticipated.

Any of these resources within the navigation channel will continue to be under the State of South Carolina's jurisdiction. Therefore, the Corps believes that the resources will have adequate and legally enforceable restriction or conditions to ensure the long-term preservation of any historic property's significance. Dredging will also no longer

pose any potential impacts if the navigation channel is deauthorized. Due to these reasons, the Corps has determined that this undertaking poses no effect to historic properties located within and along the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel.

Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Charleston District requests your Tribe provide concurrence on the no effect determination and requests any comments on the draft EA and draft FONSI (Enclosures 1-3). The documents are also available for review at https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/NEPA-Documents/. Please provide any comments regarding this proposed deauthorization within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Ms. Janice Lowe
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 187
101 East Broadway
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Ms. Lowe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
1536 Tom Stevens Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Dear Dr. Haire:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Ms. Karen Brunso
Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74281-1548

Dear Ms. Brunso:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. Russell Townsend
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Dear Mr. Townsend:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Pursuant to Section 106 of NHPA, the Charleston District requests your Tribe provide concurrence on the no effect determination and requests any comments on the draft EA and draft FONSI (Enclosures 1-3). The documents are also available for review at https://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/NEPA-Documents/. Please provide any comments regarding this proposed deauthorization within 30 calendar days of receipt of this letter to Ms. Andrea Farmer, Archaeologist, Planning Branch, Savannah District, at Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 412-3363.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



Figure 1. Port Royal Harbor, with federal channel indicated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Ms. Lora Nuckolls
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
70500 E 128 RD
Wyandotte, OK 74370

Dear Ms. Nuckolls:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. David Cook
Kialegee Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 332
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Dear Mr. Cook:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. Turner Hunt
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Sincerely,

Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. Larry Haikey
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, Alabama 36502

Dear Mr. Haikey:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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Nancy A. Parrish
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Dr. Paul Backhouse
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Ms. Tonya Tipton
Shawnee Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
29 S. Highway 69A
Miami, OK 74354

Dear Ms. Tipton:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. David Frank
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 188
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Dear Mr. Frank:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps) performed a study to determine if a federal interest continues to exist for commercial navigation within Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel (Figure 1) and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. Construction of the inner channel and turning basin was completed in the 1950s, and maintenance dredging ceased in 2004 due to a lack commercial navigation. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Corps prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this study and is recommending the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the channel.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, S.C. 29403-5107

March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina

Mr. Bryan Printup
Tuscarora Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office / Environment Program
5226 E Walmore Road
Lewiston, New York 14092

Dear Mr. Printup:

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Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

Encls



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SCOPING RESPONSES

From: Caldwell, Mark
To: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA)
Cc: Olds, Melanie J
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 3:33:13 PM

Andrea,

The Service offers no comments on the disposition study for the Port Royal Navigation Project at this time.

Mark

Mark A. Caldwell
Deputy Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
South Atlantic-Gulf Region
South Carolina Ecological Services (New website - https://www.fws.gov/office/south-carolina-ecological-services)
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
843-300-0426 (direct line)
843-870-0041 (cell)
843-300-0189 – facsimile

This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Hughes, Andrea W CIV USARMY CESAC (USA) <Andrea.W.Hughes@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 3:09 PM
To: pace.wilber <pace.wilber@noaa.gov>; Hightower, Charles <HIGHTOCW@dhec.sc.gov>; Stout, Christopher <stoutcm@dhec.sc.gov>; Johnson, Elizabeth <EJohnson@scdah.sc.gov>; Caldwell, Mark <mark_caldwell@fws.gov>; rigginl@dnr.sc.gov; SPIREK, JIM <SPIREKJ@mailbox.sc.edu>; Singh-White.Alya@epa.gov; EPA Kelly Laycock <Laycock.Kelly@epa.gov>; Andy Herndon (andrew.herndon@noaa.gov) <andrew.herndon@noaa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Port Royal Disposition Study Request for Comments

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Stakeholders,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE) is initiating a disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The purpose of the study is to determine whether federal interest exists to retain the project for its authorized purpose of commercial navigation and if not, to determine whether the project should be deauthorized. The disposition study is authorized under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions. This study will be conducted using only federal funds and there is no non-federal sponsor. Deauthorization, if recommended, would require Congressional action.

The Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project proposed construction of a channel 27 ft deep and 500 ft wide across the ocean bar and in Port Royal Sound for a distance of approximately 13.2 miles; a channel 24 ft deep and 300 ft wide in the Beaufort River and Battery Creek extending a distance of approximately 7.5 miles to a turning basin approximately 27 ft deep and 600 ft wide and located opposite a wharf belonging to the South Carolina State Ports Authority (See attached Figure 1). The project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved 3 September 1954, in accordance with plans contained in House Document No 469 of the 81st Congress, 2nd Session.

Project construction was completed in 1959, and maintenance dredging for the entrance channel was performed approximately 24 times between 1959 and 2003, and approximately four times for the inner channel. In 2004, the S.C. State Ports Authority Port Royal cargo terminal was closed and identified as a surplus state property by then governor Mark Sanford. The property was sold to a private developer in 2017. The project once provided access for bulk commodities including cement, clay, slurry, feldspar and aggregate; however, due to closure of the terminal facilities, commercial use of the Federal channel for movement of commodities no longer exists. Also, due to lack of commercial use and federal interest, the entrance channel hasn't been dredged since 2003 and the inner channel hasn't been dredged since 1995. A 2021 channel condition survey and hydrographic map are attached.

Pursuant to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and associated environmental laws and regulations, USACE will be evaluating the potential effects of discontinuing operations and maintenance associated with the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project. We are requesting comments regarding any concerns you may have with the proposed study including the scope of issues to be evaluated, any resources or habitats of concern in the study area, or any other information you wish to provide.

Please send written comments via e-mail to andrea.w.hughes@usace.army.mil by COB 22 April 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please respond to this e-mail or contact me at the phone number provided below.

Regards,

Andrea

Andrea W. Hughes
Biologist, Planning and Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
Cell: 843.566.3857

Office 803-328-2427

May 12, 2022

Attention: Andrea Hughes
Department of the Army
69 A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2022-1-43		Disposition study for the Port Royal Harbor Navigation Project in Beaufort Co., SC

Dear Ms. Hughes,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Rogers at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Rogers for

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

April 03, 2024

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist
Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Andrea.Adams.Farmer@usace.army.mil

Re: Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study
Port Royal, Beaufort County, South Carolina
SHPO Project No. 22-EJ0058

Dear Andrea Farmer:

Thank you for your project submission of March 1st, 2023 regarding the Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study. We have also received a copy of the *Draft Port Royal Harbor Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina, Integrated Report/Environmental Assessment* as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes including those with state recognition, local governments, or the public.

The purpose of the proposed undertaking is the disposition of the Port Royal Harbor Federal Navigation Channel due to the lack of federal interest in commercial navigation within the aforementioned channel.

The SHPO has no further comments concerning the *Draft Port Royal Harbor Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina, Integrated Report/Environmental Assessment*. Our office previously provided comments concerning this undertaking on 03/22/2022 and concurred with the no historic properties affected determination. The SHPO concurs that dredging will no longer pose any impacts to potentially eligible archaeological sites should the navigation channel be deauthorized; any resources within the federal navigation will continue to be under the State of South Carolina's jurisdiction. However, our office recommends still conducting additional consultation with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology-Marine Research Division's (SCIAA-MRD).

Based on the description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the identification of historic properties within the Port Royal Harbor Federal Navigation Channel, our office concurs that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project.

If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include, but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal and glass objects, and human skeletal materials. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office and SCIAA-MRD immediately.

Please refer to SHPO Project Number 22-EJ0058 in any future correspondence regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6168 or RLarsen@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Larsen III

Robert P. Larsen III, MSc, RPA
Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

From:	Nassif, William
To:	Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA)
Cc:	Spirek, Jim
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Re: Coordination Letter--Charleston District, Port Royal Federal Navigation Channel, Beaufort County, SC
Date:	Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:33:26 AM

Andrea,

Thank you for circling back on this. SCIAA's response is below:

SCIAA has no comments to add to the USACE's Disposition Study of Port Royal Harbor.

Thanks,

Will

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA) <Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:30:02 AM
To: Nassif, William <WNASSIF@sc.edu>
Subject: RE: Coordination Letter--Charleston District, Port Royal Federal Navigation Channel, Beaufort County, SC

Good morning Will,

The comment window is closing for the Charleston District's Port Royal undertaking. I wanted to see if SCIAA plans to submit any comments.

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA)
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Nassif, William <WNASSIF@sc.edu>
Subject: FW: Coordination Letter--Charleston District, Port Royal Federal Navigation Channel, Beaufort County, SC

Good afternoon Will,

I wanted to share this Sec 106 coordination with you to see if SCIAA has any concerns/comments. Please let me know if you have any feedback!

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

From: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA)
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:34 AM
To: 'rc@scdah.sc.gov' <rc@scdah.sc.gov>
Subject: Coordination Letter--Charleston District, Port Royal Federal Navigation Channel, Beaufort County, SC

Good morning,

A coordination letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, is attached to provide information regarding a study to determine federal interest for the Port Royal Harbor federal navigation channel in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The associated files, including an Environmental Assessment and Appendices, are attached for your review and comment.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence. We look forward to receiving your response.

Best regards,

Andrea Farmer, RPA
Archaeologist, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
912.412.3363 (cell)
Andrea.A.Farmer@usace.army.mil

From: Laserfiche Notification
To: Farmer, Andrea A CIV (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Section 106 Consultation - Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 3:37:19 PM

This email is in response to Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort County, South Carolina.

The Shawnee Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Department has the following response to this project:

We have no issues or concerns at this time. Please continue with the project as planned, but in the event of archaeological materials are encountered during construction, use, or maintenance of this location, please re-notify us at that time as we would like to resume immediate consultation under such a circumstance.

If you have any questions, you may contact me via email at Section106@shawnee-tribe.com

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this project

Erin Paden
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST
Office: (918) 542-2441, x140
Email: epaden@shawnee-tribe.com
29 S Hwy 69A
Miami, OK 74354
shawnee-tribe.com

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427

April 9, 2024

Attention: Andrea Farmer
Charleston District, Corps of Engineers
69 A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2024-1-22		Port Royal Harbor and Federal Navigation Channel Disposition Study, Beaufort Co., SC

Dear Ms. Farmer,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions, please contact Caitlin Rogers at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Rogers for

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer