The State Coastal Zone Consistency (CZC) Process

State CZC Project Review Process

1.) A request for Coastal Zone Consistency certification is sent to DHEC from the permit applicant for a state permit. The applicant must submit the following documents to CZC staff:

   a. State CZC Request Form
   b. Project Outline
      i. a site plan drawing (recommend a digital drawing in state plane coordinates including the boundary of the area of disturbance)
   c. Appropriate Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) policy checklist(s) and Statement of Consistency.

2.) Within 5 (five) business days of receipt, CZC staff will determine administrative completeness of the consistency request. **If the request is deemed incomplete, the applicant will be given an opportunity to complete the request within 5 additional days.** If not corrected, it will be deemed Inconsistent and the permitting authority will be notified by memorandum.

3.) If the request is complete and qualifies for a General Coastal Zone Consistency certification (GCZC) or waiver, CZC staff will issue an internal memorandum of consistency to the DHEC State permitting authority.

4.) If the project does not qualify for a GCZC or is not waived, CZC staff will issue a 10 day public notice that contains the following information:

   a. Project Name
   b. Project location, including TMS#
   c. Type of activity, (i.e. mine, dock, airport, etc)
   d. Type of permit requested (i.e. NPDES, mining permit, etc)
   e. Name of the Permitting Agency (i.e. DHEC Bureau of Water, DHEC Bureau of Air Quality)

5.) During the 10 day public notice timeframe, CZC staff will review the request for consistency in reference to applicable CZMP policies. The review will consist of the completion of the project decision document and the review of any comments received.

6.) After the end of the public notice timeframe, CZC staff will issue an internal memorandum of consistency or inconsistency to the DHEC State permitting authority. In the case of the Office of Regulatory Staff permits, CZC staff will issue a letter of consistency or inconsistency.

Permit/CZC Appeals Process

Request for Final Review’s (RFR) of the State Permit/CZC is sent to the Clerk of Board pursuant to S. C. Code 44-1-60. The DHEC Board can elect to hear the RFR for the State Permit/CZC collectively or individually and the decision becomes the final Agency action. This action can be appealed to the Administrative Law Judge Division.

* The State CZC review process, outlined above, is extracted from various sections of the 1979 Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) and the 1995 Program Refinements. This outline is intended to be used for simplicity purposes as it relates to the CZC process and is not intended to exclude any section of the CZMP.*