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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

SCANNED

APR 19 2018

RECEIVED

APR 19 2018

SITE ASSESSMENT,
REMEDICATION &
REVITALIZATION

Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin
City of Columbia
137 Main Street
P.O. Box 147
Columbia, South Carolina 29217

Dear Mayor Benjamin:

Thank you for your March 19, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Scott Pruitt expressing concerns regarding plans to clean up the Congaree River. Your letter was forwarded to my office for response.

The EPA has not had a formal role in approving the cleanup of the tar-like material in the Congaree River. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) oversees the South Carolina Energy & Gas Company's (SC E&G) cleanup under a voluntary cleanup agreement. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has the lead responsibility under the Clean Water Act for permitting construction activities that involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in the Congaree River.

Questions concerning cleanup conditions, requirements and options would be more appropriately addressed by the Corps and SCDHEC. Questions for the Corps can be directed to Mr. Brice McCoy, Chief of the Northwest Regulatory Branch, at (803) 253-3444. Questions for SCDHEC can be directed to Mr. Ken Taylor, Director, South Carolina Division of Site Assessment, Remediation & Revitalization, at (803) 898-0835.

EPA Region 4 will move forward with coordinating a meeting with SCDHEC, the Corps, SC E&G, the Congaree Riverkeeper, as you suggest, to come to a common understanding regarding plans and next steps for the cleanup. Region 4 will continue to monitor this project and provide input when appropriate.

If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA, please contact me or Allison Wise, in the Region 4 Office of Government Relations, at (404) 562-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Onis 'Trey' Glenn, III".

Onis "Trey" Glenn, III
Regional Administrator

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