

Submittal Date – October 6, 2020

**Congaree River Project**

**Stakeholder-Developed Modified Removal Action (MRA)**

Weekly Status Report for the Week Ending Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

September 29, 2020 SCDHEC provided approval of Attachment C – Project Description. The approval was forwarded to the USACE, which acknowledged receipt.

September 29, 2020 DESC submitted a link to the completed Stakeholder-Developed Modified Removal Action - Joint Federal and State Application submitted to the USACE and copied SCDHEC. Two hard copies of the permit application were delivered to SCDHEC in Columbia, SC.

September 30, 2020 DESC submitted the Weekly Status Report to SCDHEC documenting the progress of the USACE permit application.

September 30, 2020 The USACE acknowledged receipt of the electronic copy of the Joint Federal and State Application and informed DESC that a hard copy submittal is not required. USACE file number – SAC-2011-01356.

Weekly reports were generated at the request of SCDHEC for DESC to provide timely progress updates of the ACOE permit submittal due September 30, 2020. Moving forward, DESC will provide quarterly status reports.

Construction Season (May 1 – Oct 31) – Updated Monthly

May 1 – May 31 13 days WSE above cofferdam height (10.27)  
9 days WSE above safe working height (7.0) for cofferdam construction  
22 days of no work in the river due to high water in May 2020

June 1 – June 30 0 days WSE above cofferdam height (10.27)  
6 days WSE above safe working height (7.0) for cofferdam construction  
6 days of no work in the river due to high water in June 2020

July 1 – July 31 0 days WSE above cofferdam height (10.27)  
1 day WSE above safe working height (7.0)\*  
1 day of no work in the river due to high water in July 2020

August 1 – August 31 0 days WSE above cofferdam height (10.27)  
5 days WSE above safe working height (7.0)\*  
5 days of no work in the river due to high water in August 2020

Sept. 1 – Sept 30      0 days WSE above cofferdam height (10.27)  
                                 6 days WSE above safe working height (7.0)  
                                 6 days of no work in the river due to high water in September 2020

Likely Impacts from Tropical Storm Sally\*\*

4 days Preparation –no productive work days  
3 days of unknown/uncertain conditions – no productive work days  
10 days Dewatering & Re-establish Operations - est. post storm event  
17 estimated no work days in September

WSE – Water Surface Elevation at nearby Congaree River Gage Location

\* For the purpose of this exercise (i.e. tracking the “no work in the river” days), it is estimated that by July 1st of 2020 - construction of the cofferdam would likely have been completed. River gage heights above 7 feet are considered “no work in the river” days because work would have to stop to prepare the working face to withstand an overtopping event.

\*\* It is an operational expectation that storm preparations and work area stabilization activities would have been completed in advance of the forecasted tropical storm during September, therefore, “4 days Preparation” was identified. It is also an operational expectation that the pumps required for dewatering activities during excavation would have been removed in preparation of an overtopping event. The maximum gage height on September 17, 2020 was 10.25, within a few hundreds of a foot of the top of the cofferdam. Although technically the cofferdam should not have been over-topped until levels were at gage height 10.27 feet, some over-topping may have occurred [the 0.02 feet assumes unrealistic precision for a constructed elevation; a typical tolerance for earth work projects is +/- 0.2 foot (aka 2 tenths of a foot)]. Also, the work area would have likely filled with water – not from overtopping, but anticipated leakage coupled with removal of the dewatering system.

To demonstrate the uncertainty of river level predictions, a copy of the USGS river gage forecast on September 17, 2020 (forecasted for 4 to 5 days in advance) indicates that the cofferdam was going to be overtopped by approximately 11 feet of water on September 19 and 20, 2020. Based on the actual gage readings described above, and in hindsight, the water elevation actually would have been at or near the top of the cofferdam on September 17 and would have subsided by September 19.