




Coastal Zone Consistency Determination

To: Wendy Hamilton, BLWM Mining and Reclamation Section

From: Christopher M Stout, OCRM Coastal Zone Consistency Section 

Applicant: Cory Dukes, Sassafras Timber LLC

Project Name: Sassafras Mine I-002310

Finding: Conditionally Consistent with the SC Coastal Zone Management Program

Site Location: Off Hwy 165, North Charleston, Dorchester County, South Carolina (TMS#: 1780000001)

Reference #: HP7-A8HC-KB42X, I-002130

Date: December 30, 2021

The staff of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) reviewed the above referenced Coastal Zone Consistency project request for mineral extraction for the removal of material. The project proposes to use 171.5 acres for resource extraction for topsoil and fill dirt. Of the 171.5 acres, 100 acres are segmented for mining, 3 acres for haul roads, and approximately 60 acres held for future reserves. No wetland impacts are proposed, and wetland delineations will be performed prior to mining activities. The mine segments will be reclaimed as ponds and grasslands. Stormwater and groundwater will be discharged after settling through wetlands associated with Rantowles Creek.

The project site has previously been surveyed for cultural resources in the *Cultural Resources Survey & Archaeological Testing of Selected Sites at Watson Hill Tract* by Brockington & Associates in 2006. The survey identified several archaeological sites that appear to be immediately adjacent to or partially included in the tract (see attached SC ArchSite map). 38DR0276, 38DR0275, 38DR0274, 38DR0273, 38DR0271, 38DR0290, 38DR0294 were determined to not meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Project Boundary is also adjacent to the Ashley River Historic District Boundary Increase.

During the cultural resources survey archaeological site 38DR0272 was recommended for additional work to determine its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and its status as a significant site. Site 38DR0272 appears to be in portions of Segments 4, 5 and 6.

We hereby certify that the above referenced project is **Conditionally Consistent** with the **Guidelines for Evaluation of All Projects** as well as the Coastal Industries (*Mineral Extraction*), Wildlife and Fisheries Management, and Stormwater Management (*Mines and Landfills*) policies contained in the S.C. Coastal Zone Management Program provided the following conditions are included in the permits and adhered to by the applicant.

1. In the event that any historic or cultural resources and/or archaeological materials are found during the course of work, the applicant must notify the State Historic Preservation Office and the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Historic or cultural resources consist of those sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places and those sites that are eligible for the National Register. 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.
2. All construction BMPs must be installed, inspected and maintained to hold sediment onsite and to protect any adjacent or downstream wetlands and waters through the life of the project. Upon completion of construction activities, all disturbed (includes undeveloped) areas, including those impacted for access, must be immediately stabilized.
3. The applicant is not authorized to impact any wetlands. In the event any impacts to wetlands occur, the US Army Corps of Engineers and DHEC-OCRM must be notified and all work must cease to minimize additional impacts until the applicant receives authorization.
4. Archaeological Site 38DR0272 appears to be in portions of Segments 4, 5 and 6. As such, archaeological site 38DR0272 should undergo additional testing or be protected from ground-disturbing activities with a minimum 25-ft buffer around the site perimeter. The purpose of the additional work is to determine if the site meets the criteria for listing in the NRHP and is a significant site. All fieldwork, analyses, and report writing shall be performed by, or under the supervision of, individuals who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. All reports and findings must be coordinated with the Department and SC Department of Archives and History prior to any mineral extraction in Segments 4, 5, and 6 within the boundaries of archaeological site 38DR0272.
5. The project must be fully consistent with local zoning and comprehensive plans prior to work being conducted.

This determination shall serve as the SCDHEC OCRM Coastal Zone Consistency Determination for the work described above. However, this determination **does not** serve as a Department permitting decision and **does not** alleviate the applicant's responsibility to obtain any applicable State or Federal permit(s) for the work. Local government authorizations **may also** be required.