

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A HAGOOD AVENUE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

APR 1 0 2018

Regulatory Division

Mr. Chris Beckham SCDOT 955 Park Street, Room 507 Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Beckham:

This letter is in response to your request for a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) (SAC-2018-00402) received in our office on March 9, 2018, for a 25.86-acre site located on Lester Road (S-45) at a crossing of the Little Pee Dee River, approximately one half mile northeast of the intersection of SC HWY 57 and Lester Road, outside of the town of Dillon, in Dillon County, South Carolina (Latitude: 34.3320 °N, Longitude: 79.3256 °W). The site in question is shown on the enclosed depiction entitled "Exhibit 3-Aerial Exhibit" and dated March 2, 2018 prepared by S&ME, Inc. A PJD is used to indicate that this office has identified the approximate location(s) and boundaries of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources that are presumed to be waters of the United States on the site pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1344).

Based on an on-site inspection, a review of aerial photography, topographic maps, National Wetlands Inventory maps, soil survey information, and Wetland Determination Data Forms, it has been concluded that the boundaries shown on the referenced depiction are a reasonable approximation of the aquatic resources found within the site that are presumed to be subject to regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. The site in question contains approximately 10.90 acres of federally defined wetlands and approximately 1.64 acres or 1,303 linear feet of other aquatic resources that are presumed to be waters of the United States that are subject to regulatory jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA.

You are cautioned that the boundaries of the delineated wetlands and/or other aquatic resources that are presumed to be subject to regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers shown on the enclosed depiction are approximate and subject to change.

By providing this PJD, the Corps of Engineers is making no legally binding determination of any type regarding whether jurisdiction exists over the particular aquatic resource(s) in question. In this regard, this PJD is not a definitive determination of the presence or absence of areas within the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction, and, therefore, it does not have an expiration date. A PJD is "preliminary" in the sense that a recipient of a PJD can later request and obtain an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) for a definitive, official determination that there are, or that there are not, jurisdictional aquatic resources on a site, including the identification of the geographic limits of the jurisdictional aquatic resources. In order for a definitive determination of jurisdiction to be provided, you must submit a request for an AJD.

You should be aware that a permit from this office may be required for certain activities in the areas identified as wetlands and/or other aquatic resources that are presumed to be subject to regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers, and these areas may be subject to restrictions or requirements of other state or local government entities. A PJD may be used as the basis of a permit decision; however, for purposes of computation of impacts, compensatory mitigation requirements, and other resource protection measures, a permit decision made on the basis of a PJD will treat all aquatic resources that would be affected in any way by the permitted activity on the site as jurisdictional. If you intend to request an AJD in the future, you are advised not to commence work in these wetlands and/or other aquatic resources that are presumed to be jurisdictional prior to receiving the AJD. Enclosed is a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form describing the areas in question and clarifying the option to request an AJD.

Please note that this is a PJD, and as such is not an appealable action under the Corps of Engineers' administrative appeal procedures defined at 33 CFR 331. If a permit application is forthcoming as a result of this PJD, a copy of this letter, as well as the depiction should be submitted as part of the application. Otherwise, a delay could occur in confirming that a PJD was performed for the proposed project area.

It should also be noted that some or all of these areas may be regulated by other state or local government entities. Specifically, you are encouraged to contact the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to determine the limits of their jurisdiction.

This PJD has been conducted for the purpose of identifying the approximate location(s) of aquatic resources that are presumed to be subject to regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers on the particular site identified in this request. This PJD may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. If you or your tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, prior to starting work.

Enclosed are two copies of the Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form signed by our office. Please sign both copies, retain one copy for your records and return one signed copy to this office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

In all future correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to file number SAC-2018-00402. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to certain State and/or Federal agencies for their information. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Laura M. Boos, Project Manager, at (803) 253-3902.

Sincerely,

Travis G. Hughes

Chief, Regulatory Division

## Enclosures:

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form Notification of Appeal Options Self-addressed envelope Depiction: "Exhibit 3-Aerial Exhibit" dated March 2, 2018

## Copies Furnished:

Mr. Chris Daves S&ME, Inc. 134 Suber Road Columbia, South Carolina 29210

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of Water 2600 Bull Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405