



January 6, 2004

**MEMORANDUM TO TEAM LEADERS AND CONSULTANTS**

**SUBJECT:** Importance Classification (IC) of Bridges

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For seismic design considerations, the Importance Classification of bridges is as follows (refer to Sec. 3.2 of the SCDOT Seismic Design Specifications):

**CRITICAL:** Critical bridges will be designated on an individual basis by the State Bridge Design Engineer.

**ESSENTIAL:** All bridges not classified as critical and located on the Interstate system, US 17, US 378 from SC 441 east to I 95, I 20 Spur from I 95 east to US 76, and US 76 from I 20 Spur east to North Carolina and additional bridges as designated by the State Bridge Design Engineer are classified as "Essential".

**NORMAL:** All bridges that are not classified as "Critical" or "Essential" are classified as "Normal".

For vessel collision design considerations, the Importance Classification bridges crossing navigable waterways is as follows (refer to Sec. 3.14.3 of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications):

**CRITICAL:** Any bridge that is classified as "Critical" or "Essential" for seismic design considerations is classified as "Critical" for vessel collision design considerations.

**REGULAR:** All bridges that are not classified as "Critical" are classified as "Regular".

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File: PC/YIA/LEM

