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*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.*

AB490-IX  
#E1-1560  
DHW

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June 16, 2005

Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket No. AB-490 (Sub-No. IX)  
Greenville County Economic Development Corporation  
Petition For Exemption For Partial Discontinuance And Partial Abandonment  
In Greenville County, SC

Dear Madam/Sir:

I am responding to a letter from Mr. William A. Mullins dated May 27, 2005, regarding the above referenced rail line abandonment. An "Environmental and Historic Report" with maps and photographs was attached to the letter for review and is referenced in this letter. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of Water administers applicable regulations pertaining to water quality standards and classifications, including wetland protection, in accordance with the South Carolina Pollution Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act, the State Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Act, and associated regulations for all of these statutes.

The report does not describe any refueling or maintenance areas within the project area. The salvage of rail material should be accomplished by use of the right of way for access, along with existing crossings, and no new access roads should be constructed. Any debris should be transported away from the rail line and not be discarded along the right of way, nor be placed or left in streams or wetlands, or along the banks of such waterways. During track salvage, appropriate measures should be implemented to prevent or contain spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutant materials from entering any watercourses.

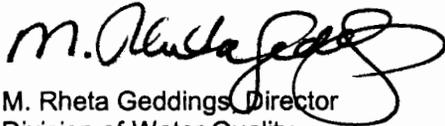
If these recommendations are followed, there should be no impacts to waters of the state and the proposed project would be consistent with applicable State water quality standards. To ensure protection and maintenance of water quality standards and classified uses, including wetlands functions, the Department recommends the following issues be addressed when planning and carrying out this project.

1. Any non-point discharges into a stream or river from construction areas of 2 acres or more will require a Department administered Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Permit. Construction areas of 1 acre or more will also be subject to NPDES Stormwater Permit regulations.
2. Any placement of fill material or dredging in waters of the state, including jurisdictional wetlands, will require a Department administered Section 401 Certification and an Army Corps of Engineers administered Section 404 Permit. When evaluating applications for fill in wetlands, demonstration of avoidance of wetland impacts, minimization of wetland impacts and mitigation of unavoidable wetland impacts provides assurances that impacts have been reduced to the extent possible and that water quality standards will be maintained. Documentation of these measures will be required.
3. A Construction in Navigable Waters Permit will also be required for all construction within navigable waters of South Carolina.

Other regulations not administered by this Bureau may apply to this project. I suggest that you

contact the Department's Bureau of Land and Waste Management regarding the disposal of debris if you haven't already done so. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please call Rusty Wenerick at (803) 898-4266 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Rheta Geddings". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

M. Rheta Geddings, Director  
Division of Water Quality

MRG: WRW

CC: William A. Mullins of Baker & Miller PLLC, Attorneys and Counselors  
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20037

Appalachia II EQC District

COE, Charleston District

Division of Water Quality



2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

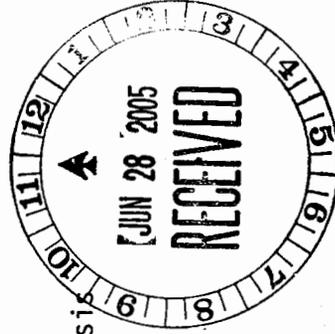
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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS



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