



mailed 4/13/06

State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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COLUMBIA 29211

April 12, 2006

Mr. James I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator
EPA Region IV
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

RE: Application for Section 404 Permit/Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson Connector (P/N #2005-IT-443)

Dear Mr. Palmer,

For several years, I have closely followed the proposal to construct the controversial Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson Connector project through the Upper Santee Swamp in South Carolina and remain strongly opposed to this wasteful and destructive project. The area in question is a nationally important conservation zone, just downstream from the Congaree National Park and upstream from a National Wildlife Refuge. Our Department of Transportation has not identified this project as a priority for South Carolina and has no plans to devote our severely limited State transportation funds to support its construction.

I agree with the concerns raised in the April 4, 2006, letter from James Giattina, the Director of your Water Quality Division, concluding that the project is not supported by the environmental study or permit application and suggesting that the matter is appropriate for elevation through the process set out in Section 404(q) of the Clean Water Act. I urge you to take all appropriate steps to pursue the elevation and continue to oppose issuance of a permit for this project. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Austin Smith of my staff at (803) 734-2100.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford

MS/as