

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Noel Holcomb, Commissioner  
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404/656-4713

July 1, 2005

Mr. William Bailey  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District  
Post Office Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

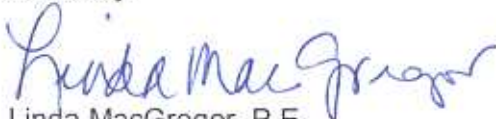
Subject: Savannah Harbor Expansion Project  
Harbor Models Suitability

Dear Mr. Bailey:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently developing a Tier II EIS for the proposed Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP). To identify and assess potential environmental impacts complex hydrodynamic and water quality models have been developed. The development process included representatives from four Federal Agencies, Georgia EPD and South Carolina DHEC, and stakeholders representing the Harbor dischargers. Model development recently culminated with the issuance of the final report: Development of the Hydrodynamic and Water Quality Models for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project dated May 2005.

On June 16 and 17 of this year the Savannah Harbor Expansion Interagency Water Quality Team, including representatives from EPD, met to discuss comments on these models and unresolved issues. These deliberations were summarized in the minutes of this meeting provided to each Team member on June 27th. In brief, the Team agreed that the models were ready to use for screening Harbor deepening alternatives. However, the Team added that the remaining issues summarized in the minutes should be addressed and resolved before quantifying specific impacts. Based on recommendations from my technical staff, Georgia EPD concurs with the Team's assertions.

Sincerely,



Linda MacGregor, P.E.  
Branch Chief  
Watershed Protection Branch

cc: Keith Parsons