

March 2020

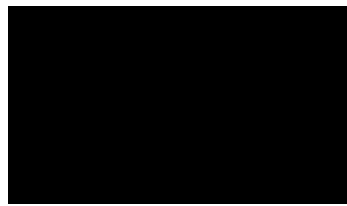
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Charleston Field Office
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407

To whom it may Concern:

Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood), on behalf of our client Santee Cooper, is pleased to submit this report regarding the protected species assessment for the proposed project, Johns Island-Queensboro 115kV Line (Project Study Area). The Project Study Area begins west of the intersection of Comsee Lane and Langston Drive, in Charleston County, South Carolina at coordinates 32.73154 N, -80.0883 W and ties into the existing Dominion Church Creek-Ritter transmission line near Maybank Highway, at coordinates 32.75097 N, -80.03022 W (See Figure 1).

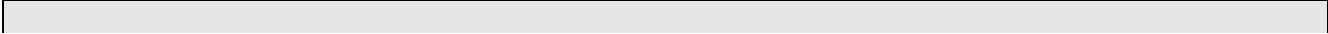
The proposed transmission project area includes a 55-foot wide corridor parallel to an existing Santee Cooper transmission line and a 100-foot wide corridor in all other portions of the Project Study Area. The Project Study Area encompasses approximately 6.38 miles of new transmission line. The proposed transmission line runs north of SC-700 from the Johns Island substation, paralleling the existing Santee Cooper Mateeba-Johns Island transmission line right-of-way (ROW), before running northeast through undeveloped wetlands to Pennys Creek. The proposed transmission line then turns west to parallel the existing Dominion Church Creek-Ritter transmission line ROW towards Maybank Highway. The

site habitat assessment for federally endangered and threatened species and the bald eagle for the Santee Cooper proposed Johns Island Green Route in Charleston County, South Carolina. This



Frosted Flatwoods Salamander		T, CH	pine areas maintained in an open state by fire with isolated ponds for breeding sites
Bald Eagle		BGEPA	coastlines, rivers, large lakes or streams
American Wood Stork		T	marshes, swamps, lagoons, ponds, flooded fields; depressions in marshes are important during drought; also occurs in brackish wetlands
Eastern Black Rail		T	tidal marshes on the coast, grassy marshes inland; found in dense spartina stands
Piping Plover		T, CMCI(,)4 (



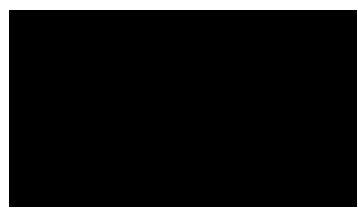




successful in their hunting efforts (Ogden et al. 1978, Browder 1984). Nesting wood storks generally use foraging sites that are located within 31 miles flight range of the colony (USFWS 1996a).

Based on review of the SCDNR Heritage Trust Database (SCDNR 2020) there are no known wood stork nests within 3 miles of the







Pondberry is found in shallow depression ponds of the sandhills, along margins of cypress ponds in the pineland coastal areas of South Carolina, and in seasonally wet, low areas among bottomland hardwoods in interior areas.

Due to the lack of habitat available for this species, we have determined that the proposed project will have no effect on pondberry.

Based on a literature review, aerial photography, and an on-site habitat assessment, it is our determination that the proposed project may affect, but not adversely affect the frosted flatwoods salamander and will have



