



August 9, 2017

Mr. Bill Stangler
PO Box 5294
Columbia, SC 29250

RE: Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment
SCE&G Fleet Maintenance Site (Congaree River)
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Stangler,

On June 15, 2017, staff of the Aquatic Biology Section within the Bureau of Water of DHEC conducted an aquatic macroinvertebrate bioassessment of the Congaree River in Columbia, South Carolina. The goal of the study was to determine if sediment contaminated with coal tar in the Congaree River is having an adverse impact to the indigenous invertebrate fauna near the sediment plume.

The results of the June 2017 study indicated that the aquatic macroinvertebrate community at the Blossom Street Bridge was comparable to the upriver control, both receiving a bioclassification score of 4.5 (Excellent) on the Carolina Biocondition Scale. The community structure at both sites showed that there is a diverse and balanced community of invertebrates, with the presence of numerous pollution sensitive species.

At the time of this investigation, any current or potential harm to the aquatic invertebrate community near the contaminated site was not suggested. Test results indicated a balanced and indigenous community of aquatic invertebrate species that are indicative of a healthy river.

The full report, "An Investigation into the Potential Impacts of Coal Tar Contamination on the Invertebrate Community of the Congaree River near the City of Columbia, Richland County, SC", by Dr. James B. Glover is attached. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (803) 898-0747 or cassidga@dhec.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Cassidy
State Voluntary Cleanup Program
Bureau of Land and Waste Management