



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Congaree Swamp National Monument  
200 Caroline Sims Road  
Hopkins, South Carolina 29061

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16

February 8, 2001

Mr. Mike Buckley, Chief  
Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Buckley,

The National Park Service has reviewed the most recent comments on the September 26, 2000 Appeal Resolution Report posted on the FEMA website. It appears that overall support for this map and report is fairly strong.

We support [REDACTED] comments regarding the record of five tropical floods that were greater than the current flood estimate. We believe that his statements are relevant in light of predictions indicating the effect of global warming on the increased frequency of tropical storms. According to the US Global Change Research Program's, National Assessment Synthesis Team<sup>1</sup>,

“The Southeast is prone to frequent natural weather disasters that affect human life and property. Over half of the nation's costliest weather-related disasters of the past 20 years have occurred in the Southeast, costing the region over \$85 billion in damages, mostly associated with floods and hurricanes. Across the region, intense precipitation has increased over the past 100 years, and this trend is projected to continue.”

“The 1999 flooding of eastern North Carolina offers a graphic example of how water quality can also be affected by extreme precipitation events, the frequency of which are likely to continue to increase; flood waters fouled with sewage, rotting farm animal carcasses, fuel, and chemicals swamped water treatment plants and contaminated public water supplies.”

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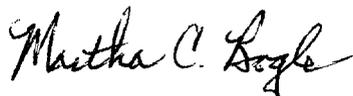
<sup>1</sup> National Assessment Synthesis Team, Climate Change Impacts on the United States; The potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change, US Global Change Research Program, 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 750, Washington DC, 20024, P49-51.

We would like to reiterate our support for the September 26, 2000 Appeal Resolution Report and map. We would also like to stress our continued interest in any upstream activities that could modify water quality, quantity or duration of flood events (such as the proposed enhancement of the levees within the subject property).

On January 29, 2001 FEMA held a meeting where the affected communities, SC Department of Natural Resources, and Burroughs and Chapin/Columbia Ventures were in attendance. As we have communicated to Todd Davison (FEMA, Mitigation Branch Region 4), we would prefer that meetings that have the potential to affect decisions regarding the use of the subject property be held in the Columbia, South Carolina area. This would insure that all appellants and interested parties have a reasonable opportunity to be included in the process. We also request that you notify us in advance of any meetings pertaining to mapping or modification of this property.

In conclusion, we want to recognize the untiring efforts of FEMA to develop scientifically credible and defensible information for the Congaree River floodplain. Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to reviewing the final map determination.

Sincerely,



Martha C. Bogle  
Superintendent

cc:

The Honorable Kit Smith, Chair of Richland County Council  
Cary McSwain, County Administrator, Richland County, South Carolina  
J.T. Begley, Field Solicitor, US Department of Interior, Knoxville, Tennessee  
Mike Soukup, National Park Service, Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship  
and Science  
Dan Kimball, National Park Service, Chief, Water Resources Division  
Tom York, Chief, Office of Surface Water, US Geological Survey  
Pat Hooks, Deputy Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service  
John Yancy, Associate Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service