

## **Appendix B**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**B-1: Lock Wall Inspection**

**B-2: Locally Preferred Plan**

**B-3: Georgia DNR Sponsorship Letter**

**B-4: Savannah River Resource Enhancement**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Appendix B-1  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 880  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0880

July 22, 1999

Executive Office

Honorable Bob Young  
Mayor of Augusta  
530 Greene Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30911

Dear Mayor Young:

I am writing to give you results of our latest inspection of the lock at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBL&D).

On May 21, 1999, we inspected the lock wall and the condition of the filling/emptying-valves. As you know, these were areas of concern during past inspections. During the inspection, we used divers to examine the riverside of the downstream lock wall. This inspection revealed that approximately 50 feet of a rock crib is missing, and there is a depression in the river bottom approximately 13 feet deep at the end of the river side lock wall. We performed a dye test in the lock chamber in the area of the boils discovered in the lock floor while the lock was dewatered in 1998. Several areas of seepage were noted along the river wall. The loss of foundation material under the wall has an adverse effect on lateral stability. Instrumentation indicates the river wall moves up to a 1/4-inch at the base when the lock is filled if the differential heads between upper and lower pool exceed 16 feet. We will continue to monitor this situation.

Your lock operators have noted that the land wall filling-valve is working erratically and sticks during operation. Mr. Drew Goins participated in the valve inspection in 1998, and he is aware that the bearings are worn out. We now believe that failure of this valve is imminent, and, therefore, it needs to be rebuilt as soon as possible. When the bearings fail, the lock will become inoperable.

Due to the critical nature of this situation, you may want to use a portion of your remaining contributed funds in the escrow account for the lock dewatering to rebuild the lock valves. Once final claims are settled from the dewatering project, there should be approximately \$150,000 available for use.

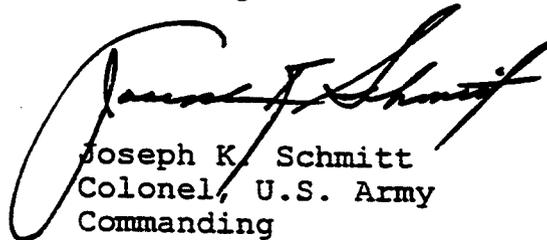
Until such repairs are made, please incorporate the following restrictions into your lock operation procedures.

a. The lock chamber should not be filled when there is a differential head greater than 16 feet. Also, we recommend that the emptying valves be left open to keep the lock chamber pool elevation at tailwater level. Use of the valve should be limited to the absolute minimum.

b. Public access to the river wall should be denied during locking procedures or while the lock has an unbalanced head between the lock chamber and the tailwater.

If you have any questions on the above or wish to discuss these issues further, please contact my Operations Manager, Mr. Ken Dial at the J. Strom Thurmond Project. He can be reached at (864) 333-1101.

Sincerely,



Joseph K. Schmitt  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding



400 East Buena Vista Avenue  
North Augusta, SC  
29841-4108

Post Office Box 6400  
North Augusta, SC  
29861-6400

## City of North Augusta

May 1, 2000

Dr. Joseph W. Westphal  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Dr. Westphal:

On behalf of the City of North Augusta and Aiken County, allow me to express appreciation for a most productive meeting in Washington DC on April 12, 2000 regarding the future disposition of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam. As a follow-up to our meeting with you, Congressman Charlie Norwood, Congressman Lindsey Graham and Colonel Joseph Schmitt, the proposal submitted for consideration is as follows:

- POINT 1. RE-AUTHORIZATION:** Through Congressional action the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam will be re-authorized for the purposes of potable water supply, industrial water supply, treated wastewater discharge, commercial navigation, and recreation. Reauthorization will require a local sponsor.
- POINT 2. OWNERSHIP:** The Corps will maintain ownership of the Lock and Dam. *Note: During the meeting it was suggested that transference of the facility to the Local Sponsor be considered as an alternative.*
- POINT 3. INITIAL REPAIRS AND UPGRADES:** The Corps will be totally responsible for all costs associated with making sure the Lock and Dam is repaired, upgraded and meets all current standards as outlined in the latest engineering reports on the facility.
- POINT 4. FUTURE REPAIRS:** An escrow fund will be established for the purpose of dealing with capital costs that have already been identified and forecast to be required beyond the first 10 years.
- POINT 5. LOCAL SPONSOR:** Aiken County and North Augusta will jointly become the local sponsor.

### Administration

Office 803.441.4202  
Fax 803.441.4203

### Economic & Community Development

Office 803.441.4221  
Fax 803.441.4232

### Engineering & Public Works

Office 803.441.4223  
Fax 803.441.4232

### Building Standards

Office 803.441.4227  
Fax 803.441.4232

### Finance

Office 803.441.4215  
Fax 803.441.4203

### Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services

Office 803.441.4300  
Fax 803.441.4319

### Public Safety

Office 803.441.4251  
Fax 803.441.4252

### Public Utilities

Office 803.441.4223  
Fax 803.441.4243



**POINT 6. OPERATIONS:** The local sponsor will contract with SCE&G for the operations of the facility. Costs for repairs, maintenance and other out-of-pocket expenses will be shared among all the users and the Corps.

Using the points outlined above, we are encouraged that a workable long term solution will be reached and that the continued operation of the Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam will be ensured. We look forward to being a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles B. Martin".

Charles B. Martin  
City Administrator

CBM:dby

cc: Mayor and City Council  
Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Honorable Charlie Norwood  
Colonel Joseph K. Schmitt  
William M. Shepherd, Aiken County  
Keith G. Mullis, SCE&G

bcc: Mr. Jeff Morris ✓

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1252, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

404/656-3500



~~DE~~  
~~OP~~  
CF: DC, DE  
DX  
DP

July 6, 1999

→ OP-T  
→ PM-C

Colonel Joseph K. Schmitt  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 889  
Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889

Dear Colonel Schmitt:

Thank you for your letter of inquiry regarding possible non-federal sponsorship of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam on the Savannah River in Augusta/Richmond County, Georgia. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is not interested in assuming sponsorship of this project.

Sincerely,

Lonice C. Barrett

LCB:ims

cc: David Waller  
Burt Weerts

**RECEIVED  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

JUL 12 1999

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT**

# THE CLIFTON CORPORATION

5250 Clifton-Glendale Road  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29307-4618  
Tel. 864/579-4405 & Fax 864/579-1932

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April 3, 2000

Col. Joseph Schmitt  
District Engineer  
Savannah District  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. Box 889  
Savannah, GA 31402-0889

RE: New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam

Dear Col. Schmitt:

Savannah River Resource Enhancement, LLC. ("SRRE") has received a preliminary permit<sup>1</sup> from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") to study the development of a hydropower facility at the New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam near Augusta, GA. SRRE has investigated the feasibility of this project and determined that the development is feasible. However, the proposed hydropower development<sup>2</sup> requires that the lock and dam (or some other facility) at the project maintain the pool above the site essentially as it now exists (i.e. a pool elevation of approximately 115 feet, NGVD).

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<sup>1/</sup> The permit provides an exclusive opportunity to file a development license for the facility. The FERC permit number is P-11,655.

<sup>2/</sup> A detailed description of the proposed hydropower facility has previously been provided to the District's Planning Division.

Col. Joseph Schmitt  
April 3, 2000  
Page 2

New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam

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Because the USCOE is now studying the deauthorization of the facility and is looking for a sponsor to take over the facility, SRRE wishes to inform the USCOE that SRRE has an interest in becoming the sponsor for the project.

SRRE is interested in discussing with the USCOE the details of the two alternatives identified on page 15 of the December 1999 Draft Section 216 Disposition Study.

Please contact me in the near future to discuss the procedures and details of SRRE becoming the local sponsor for the project.

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED*

Mr. Charles B. Mierek, P.E.  
President

cc. Mr. Jeff Morris, Planner  
Planning Division  
Savannah District  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. Box 889  
Savannah, GA 31402-0889