



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

NOV 17 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2006-TA-0202c

Ms. Kaylen Jones
McGehee Engineering Corp.
P.O. Box 3431
Jasper, AL 35502-3431

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of October 14, 2010, requesting comments on the proposed addition of 78 acres to Carter Mine (ASMC Permit P-3819, Revision R-13) by Tuscaloosa Resources, Inc. in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. We have reviewed the information and are providing the following comments in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended, 16 U.S.C. et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Endangered Species

Our records indicate that no endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or critical habitat occur in the immediate project area. Therefore, no further endangered species consultation will be required for the project unless: 1) the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect on a listed species or on proposed or designated critical habitat; 2) new information reveals the identified action may affect Federally protected species or designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or 3) a new species is listed or a critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act that may be affected by the identified action.

Recommendations

We strongly recommend that Tuscaloosa Resources, Inc. closely adhere to Alabama Surface Mining Commission Administrative Code, Chapter 880-X-10C, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS SURFACE MINING ACTIVITIES, and develop an erosion control plan tailored to the mining site. We also recommend development of mine plans that closely adhere to protective measures in ADEM regulations sections 335-6-10-.06(a) and (c) to maintain minimum water quality conditions applicable to all State waters.

Your biological habitat assessment indicates steep slopes are located throughout the project area. We recommend placing all mining activities, including settling ponds, at least 100 feet from the

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two unnamed tributaries that flow through the site. The buffers should consist of natural vegetation such as trees, shrubs, and grasses, or other herbaceous species, and be maintained to protect surface waters from soil runoff and mining contaminants. We recommend increasing the buffer to 150 feet in the steeply sloped areas (i.e., 45 degree slopes).

We would also like to emphasize the importance of these additional best management practices (BMPs) to control erosion and minimize impacts to aquatic systems:

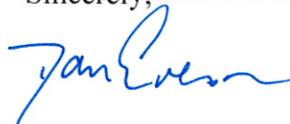
- size settling ponds to accommodate a 25-year, 24-hour rain or flood event and avoid placing ponds in sites with steep topography or in buffer areas.
- inspect BMP structures within 24 hours of each significant rainfall event and take immediate corrective action if erosion or soil runoff is observed.
- monitor water quality (especially turbidity or total suspended solids) to assure that discharges/runoff do not increase stream turbidity above background levels.
- immediately revegetate any disturbed areas not actively mined.
- execute any work that results in exposed earth on slopes leading to wetlands or surface waters during periods when significant rainfall is not predicted.
- maintain the State's standard for pH at all times ("Wastes shall not cause the pH to deviate more than one unit from the normal or natural pH, nor be less than 6.0, nor greater than 8.5" [ADEM 1992]). This is particularly important for sustaining a healthy ecosystem and aquatic fauna.

For specific techniques, see "The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas" (2009), available from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line at:

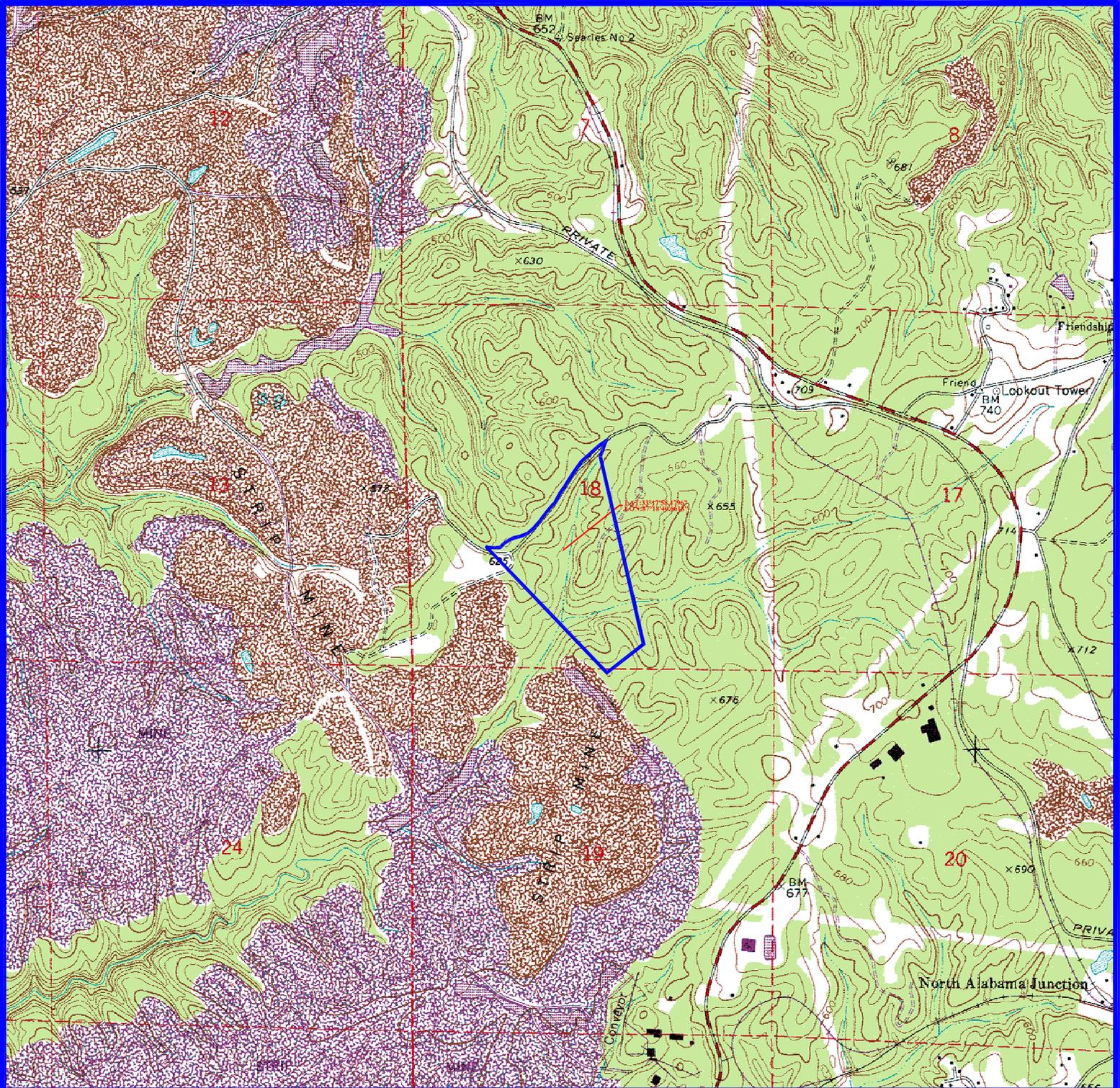
http://swcc.alabama.gov/pages/erosion_control.aspx?sm=b_b

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Jodie Smithem at (251) 441-5842. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



Dan Everson
Deputy Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



SCALE: 1" = 2000'

TUSCALOOSA RESOURCES, INC.
CARTER MINE
 (APPROXIMATELY 78 ACRES TOTAL)



PROJECT AREA MAP

SECTION 18 & 19, TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST
ALL IN TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA
AS FOUND ON THE BROOKWOOD, AL. USGS QUAD.

 REVISION R-13 BOUNDARY

Latitude: 33°17' 58" N
 Longitude: 87°18'40" W

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