



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 19, 2001

Earl Stockdale, Esquire
Deputy General Counsel for Civil Works and Environment
Department of the Army
104 Army Pentagon, Room 2E725
Washington, D.C. 20310-0104

Dear Mr. Stockdale:

I am writing in regards to the referral made by the Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) the proposed Manteo (Shallowbag) Bay Project in Dare County, North Carolina. The Corps filed the final environmental impact statement on September 21, 2001, and we received the referral in a timely manner on October 16, 2001.

Under CEQ's regulations implementing the predecision referral process, the Department of the Army (Civil Works) has twenty-five days to respond to the referral. Because that day would fall on a Saturday and the following Monday is a federal holiday, the twenty-fifth day by our calculations falls on November 13, 2001. However, as you know, Assistant Secretary Parker granted the Department of the Interior (DOI) a thirty day extension of the time period for a referral so that DOI could determine whether they will proceed with a referral on the same project. Should DOI chose to do so, the response time for the Army's response will be extended by a commensurate number of days.

Direction on the content of the response can be found in our regulations at 40 C.F.R. §1504.3(d). Please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 395-7421 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dinah Bear".

Dinah Bear
General Counsel