

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Suite 1152 Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Richard E. Dunn, Director
(404) 656-4713

JUN 28 2016

Mr. George McLachlan
Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC
400 Colonial Center Parkway, Suite 300
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Re: Water Quality Certification
Joint Public Notice SAS-2013-00942
Sabal Trail Pipeline Project
Chattahoochee, Flint, Ochlockonee
and Suwanee River Basins
Stewart, Webster, Terrell, Lee, Dougherty
Mitchell, Colquitt, Brooks & Lowndes Counties

Dear Mr. McLachlan:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Georgia issues this certification to Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC, an applicant for a federal permit or license to conduct an activity in, on or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia.

The State of Georgia certifies that there is no applicable provision of Section 301; no limitation under Section 302; no standard under Section 306; and no standard under Section 307, for the applicant's activity. The State of Georgia certifies that the applicant's activity will comply with all applicable provisions of Section 303.

This certification is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. All work performed during construction will be done in a manner so as not to violate applicable water quality standards.
2. No oils, grease, materials or other pollutants will be discharged from the construction activities which reach public waters.
3. The applicant must comply with the terms of the NPDES General Permit for Infrastructure Construction Projects (GAR100002).

4. The following conditions apply if the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (Georgia EPD) issues a letter of concurrence for transient uses of surface water from the Chattahoochee and Withlacoochee Rivers associated with horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and hydrostatic pipeline integrity testing.
 - a. Pumpage rates, whether from a single or multiple withdrawal points on either the Chattahoochee or Withlacoochee Rivers, must not exceed 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm).
 - b. The operational pumpage rate from the Chattahoochee River of 1,500 gpm is less than 1 percent of the historical low flow records for any given month at the Chattahoochee River.
 - c. To ensure sufficient river flow will be maintained at all times in the Withlacoochee River, the applicant will monitor the daily flow records at USGS Stream Gage 02318500 (Withlacoochee River at U.S. 84 near Quitman, GA). If the flows in the Withlacoochee River, as measured at the USGS gage, are 8,000 gpm or less, the applicant will postpone water withdrawals.
5. Only benign, non-contaminating drilling additives rated as suitable for potable water well use will be used during HDD processes.
6. The applicant plans to maintain daily, weekly, monthly and non-compliance reports on-site and submit them annually to the EPD Non-point Source Program, as cited in Section 2.1, Items 13 and 20 of the Sabal Trail Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (E&SCP) dated May 22, 2016. In addition, the applicant shall immediately notify Georgia EPD about any events that are reasonably expected to result in an exceedance of instream water quality standards during construction. Such notice will be made to:

Georgia EPD Southwest District Office
Albany, GA
Attn: Tom Fowler
Phone: 229-430-4144

7. For all "minor waterbody" stream crossings (less than 10 feet wide) and for all "intermediate waterbody" stream crossings less than 30 feet wide, regardless of their State vs. Non-State Designated status (as cited on pages 5-4 and 5-5 of the Sabal Trail E&SCP, revised May 22, 2016), "dry" flumed or dam and pump crossing methods will be used. Any exception to this stipulation (i.e. using a "wet" stream crossing due to localized stream channel/drainageway conditions which would not allow for the successful application of "dry" crossing methods) will occur only with the documented approval of the Sabal Trail Environmental Inspector and the FERC 3rd Party Compliance Monitor.

8. The applicant plans to utilize temporary equipment bridges to cross streams. In order to minimize placement of crushed stone fill into stream beds, it is preferred that the applicant utilize equipment mats/pads and culverts (Figure #38 of E&SCP), Flexi-float or portable bridges (Figure #40 of E&SCP), free span equipment pads or railroad car bridges without culverts, as opposed to crushed stone and culverts (Figure #39 of E&SCP). Use of the crushed stone and culvert method for temporary bridging at specific stream crossings will occur only with the documented approval of the Sabal Trail Environmental Inspector and the FERC 3rd Party Compliance Monitor. Any crushed stone used in such allowed situations will be clean without excessive fine materials which would lead to erosion and sedimentation compromise to stream beds.
9. The applicant may not use synthetic monofilament mesh/netted erosion control materials.
10. Passage of construction equipment through wetlands or across streams/waterbodies for mainline clearing, trenching, pipe laying and backfilling must occur as a one-time event. This one-time event would be either over and back once or would occur as a single crossing with equipment proceeding down the project alignment without a return crossing. Any other passage of equipment across a stream/waterbody along the pipeline corridor must occur along temporary equipment bridges. General equipment or construction access roads will not be routed through wetlands; passage through wetlands will only occur as a one-time event for trenching and pipe laying. Temporary bridges are to be removed as soon as possible following pipeline construction, and shall not remain in place post-construction.
11. In addition to the NPDES general stormwater permit requirements for turbidity sampling, the Sabal Trail Environmental Inspector shall also conduct visual inspections during stream crossing activities. Any observation of a substantial visual contrast between the appearance of the stream immediately upstream of the activities and the appearance of the stream downstream from the activities must be addressed immediately through proper erosion and sedimentation control practices and consultation with the Environmental Inspector.
12. The applicant will comply with the measures and protocols outlined in the Karst Mitigation Plan, Appendix F of the Final EIS for the Sabal Trail project.
13. The applicant must notify the Wetlands Unit of any modifications to the proposed activity. Where modifications are identified through an NOI modification, the applicant will provide a copy of the NOI modification to the Wetlands Unit, Attn: Stephen Wiedl by email (Stephen.Wiedl@dnr.ga.gov) or by mail to Georgia EPD, Watershed Protection Branch, Wetlands Unit, 7 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Suite 450, Atlanta, GA 30334).

This certification does not relieve the applicant of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other laws or regulations of other federal, state or local authorities.

It is your responsibility to submit this certification to the appropriate federal agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "D".

Richard E. Dunn
Director

cc: Mr. Brad Floyd, TRC
Mr. Terry Kobs, USACE
Mr. Eric Somerville, USEPA
Ms. Sandy Abbott, USFWS