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Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. In short, we look at three parameters (hydrology, soils, and vegetation) to determine the presence of wetlands and an ordinary high water mark or mean high water mark to determine waters, and it takes a permit to impact jurisdictional wetlands and/or waters.

I would recommend having the project areas assessed for waters and wetlands to determine the Corps' jurisdiction and then quantify proposed impacts requiring a permit. Once a delineation has been confirmed by the Corps and preliminary plans are developed, I would recommend having a scoping meeting with other interested federal and state agencies to discuss questions about the proposal. Lyn Hardison at the NCDEQ Washington Regional Office is great at coordinating everyone's schedules and facilitating these meetings (lyn.hardison@ncdenr.gov). At this time, there is not enough information about the projects to provide detailed project-specific comments, but I'll be happy to discuss the delineation process or the project in more detail as plans develop.