

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Corps of Engineers making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR Part 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of this project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto, an analysis for archaeological and historic resources was conducted. Terra Xplorations conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey for the Keystone, Adirondack, and TIAA tracts and summarized their findings in three separate reports. These reports will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The Corps has NOT made an effects determination regarding potential effects to historic properties, however we are requesting information from any interested parties on the potential for this project to effect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered species surveys were conducted for the project area, and consultation with the USFWS will be required. The application states that the gopher tortoise and gopher frog will be impacted by the project due to the construction of facilities and mining activities.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the USFWS, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area and the potential effects this project may have on those species.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable