



THE BRIGMAN COMPANY

March 4, 2024

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Attention: Ms. Katelyn E. Mills

Reference: Adrian Sand/Clay Mine
DHEC Application I-002411
Horry County, South Carolina

Dear Ms. Mills:

On behalf of Adrian Sand, LLC, this is in response to a letter from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, dated February 16, 2024 commenting on the impacts on natural resources for the proposed Adrian Sand/Clay Mine site, particularly regarding Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) and the Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*).

As stated in the letter, suitable habitat for the Rafinesque's big-eared bat is defined as swamp forests, hardwood or mixed mature bottomlands, maritime forests and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) stands. While this habitat may occur in the adjacent Maple Swamp, the project site has been designed to exclude any wetland areas. As such, the proposed mine will have no impacts on any wetlands, including the wetland that extends southward from Maple Swamp. This wetland, as well as the majority of the site uplands, was clear cut of timber in or near October 2018 leaving only a few scattered trees in the uplands and no trees remaining in the wetland. The largest remaining area of uncut trees occurs in the uplands surrounding the excavated pond in the southwest corner of the site. Because the proposed project area does not have any suitable habitat, it will have no effect on the Rafinesque's big-eared bat or the Spotted turtle.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Vereen
The Brigman Company