

**03050207-06**  
**(Salkehatchie River)**

**General Description**

Watershed 03050207-06 (formerly 03050207-040) is located in Bamberg, Allendale, Hampton, and Colleton Counties and consists primarily of the *Salkehatchie River* and its tributaries from Wells Branch to its confluence with the Little Salkehatchie River. The watershed occupies 101,451 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 41.1% forested land, 33.5% forested wetland, 20.7% agricultural land, 3.5% urban land, 1.0% nonforested wetland, and 0.2% water. A map depicting this watershed is found in Appendix A, page A-12.

This lower section of the Salkehatchie River accepts drainage from its upstream reach, together with Gin Branch, Kirkland Creek (Cypress Pond, Alligator Bay), Bear Branch, Pretty Creek, Hog Branch, and Threemile Creek (Ocean Pond, Church Branch, Meadow Branch, Big Branch). Savannah Creek (Long Branch) enters the river next, followed by Moselle Swamp, the Whippy Swamp watershed, Ricepatch Creek, and Tennants Branch. The Salkehatchie River joins with the Little Salkehatchie River to form the Combahee River. There are a total of 519.8 stream miles and 280.4 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW. The Rivers Bridge State Historic Site is located in this watershed near the Threemile Creek confluence with the Salkehatchie River.

**Surface Water Quality**

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
CSTL-048	INT	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT US 301 & US 321
CSTL-006	W	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT US 601, 9MI NE OF HAMPTON
CSTL-104	INT	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT SC 63

*Salkehatchie River* – There are three SCDHEC monitoring stations along this portion of the Salkehatchie River. At the upstream site (*CSTL-048*), aquatic life uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total phosphorus concentration. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity and increasing trends in dissolved oxygen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are fully supported at this site and a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. At the midstream site (*CSTL-006*), aquatic life uses are fully supported. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions; however, a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. At the downstream site (*CSTL-104*), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH conditions. Although pH excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards

violations. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity and increasing trends in dissolved oxygen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters.

*A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the Salkehatchie River within this watershed (see advisory p.37).*

**NPDES Program**

***Active NPDES Facilities***

<b><i>RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME</i></b>	<b><i>NPDES# TYPE</i></b>
SALKEHATCHIE RIVER REA CONTRACTING LLC/056 ULMER PIT	SCG730653 MINOR INDUSTRIAL
TENNANTS BRANCH MANOR TRUST PROPERTIES LCC/RAM HORN MINE	SCG730458 MINOR INDUSTRIAL

***Mining Activities***

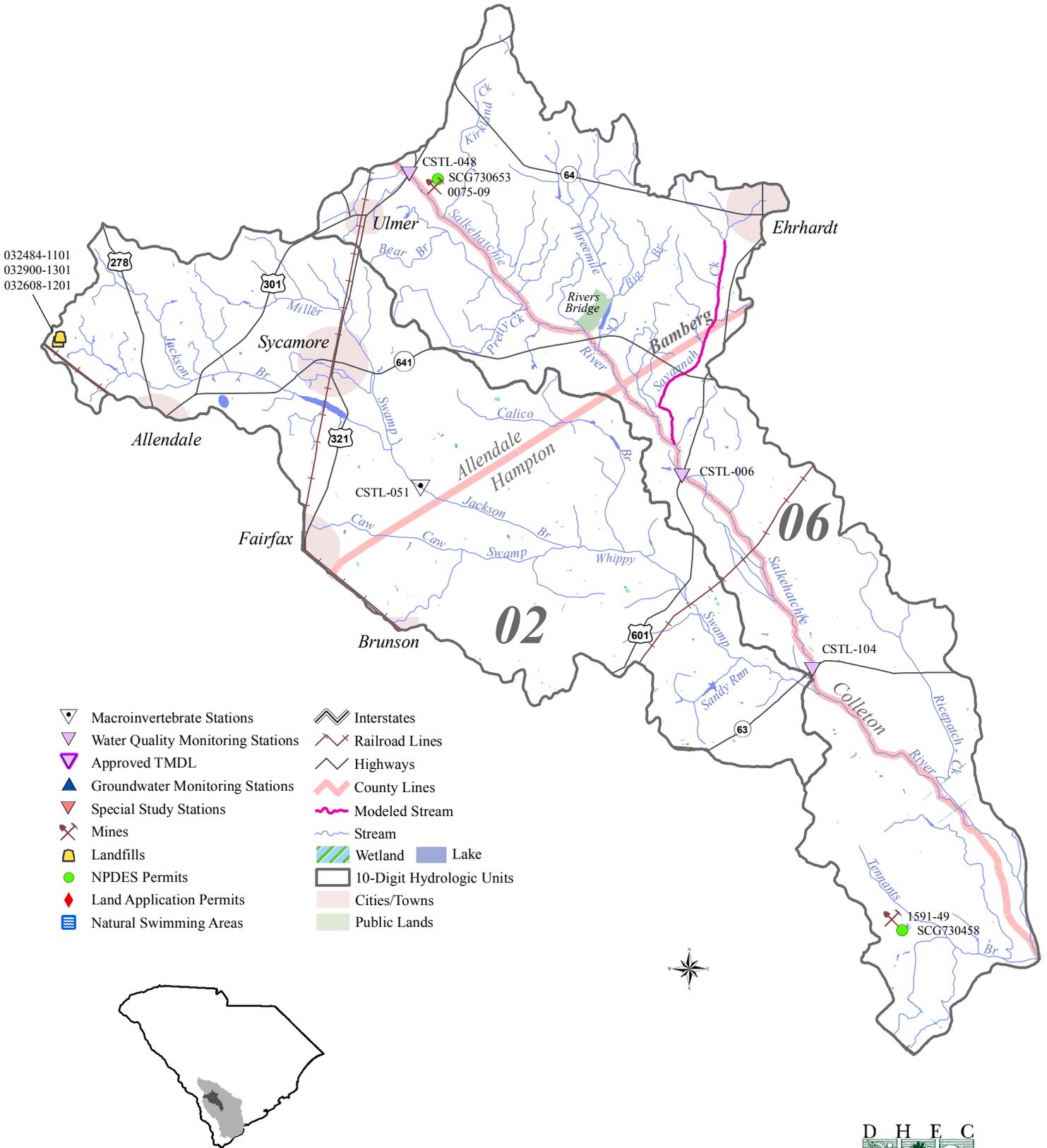
<b><i>MINING COMPANY MINE NAME</i></b>	<b><i>PERMIT # MINERAL</i></b>
REA CONTRACTING LLC MINE #2 SAND	0075-09
MANOR TRUST PROPERTIES LCC RAM HORN MINE SAND	1591-49

**Growth Potential**

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the Town of Ulmer and a portion of Ehrhardt. Bamberg and Allendale Counties have adopted a zoning ordinance that includes River and Streamside Management Areas, restricting development within 100 feet of a river and 50 feet from perennial streams, which flow directly into the river.

# Whippy Swamp/Salkehatchie River Watersheds

(03050207-02, -06)



0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles