



**Greenlink Operations and Maintenance Facility  
Stakeholder Meeting #5  
06.29.2021**

**Questions about Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) Report DRAFT**

**Question:** Can someone from the EPA or another government agency present to the community about the findings in the DCE Report? New Washington Heights would like to hear from an objective source. If not the EPA or SC DHEC, would Greenlink be willing to pay for a third-party consultant to come in and go over the findings in the DCE Report?

**Response:** *Greenlink will not be responsible for hiring a consultant to do a third-party evaluation, but staff are willing to contact EPA or SC DHEC to ask if they would be interested in scheduling a meeting with the community to discuss the findings in the DCE Report.*

**Question:** The team mascot of the Washington High School was a falcon. Will the natural habitat for falcons be preserved?

**Response:** *The approach to the proposed development is to minimize the developable area and provide for natural vegetative buffers throughout the property. These habitats can be utilized for the falcons that may have habitat in the area. The approach to the construction of the development will be to minimize the disturbance of the natural and vegetative buffers. Of the three types of falcons that can be found in South Carolina, only the American Kestrel can be found year-round. The other species only migrate through South Carolina.*

**Question:** Will any DBEs be included in the construction for this project?

**Response:** *Yes, Greenlink will ensure DBEs are made aware of opportunities related to this project. Whether or not any agency or company is selected is dependent upon their response to procurement requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.greenvillesc.gov/1165/DBE>.*

**Question:** In the Seismic / Soils section it is stated that there is a 19% chance of an earthquake, is this percentage considered in the structural design?

**Response:** *Yes.*

**Question:** The DCE includes categories that seem to be subjectively analyzed, such as Section D. Aesthetics. Could you explain any metrics or evaluation criteria used?

**Response:** *The analysis and development of the Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) follows the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23, Chapter I, Subchapter H, Part 771. Guidance for the CE can be found in 23 CFR 117.118. A copy of this guidance has been attached for reference. In regards to the specific element listed, aesthetics, the DCE looks at how the proposed development will impact the adjacent communities once it is developed as compared to how it is currently. The proposed development plans a 10-acre vegetative buffer between the development and the adjacent residential homes within the New Washington Heights neighborhood. The proposed condition is similar to the current situation. Residents of New Washington Heights neighborhood will have a wooded or partially wooded view from their*



*residence towards the proposed development. The topography of the site as compared to the neighborhood allows for most of the site to be depressed which minimizes the view of the facility from the residents and from O' Jones Street. The additional programming in the buffer areas including the walking trails, playground, play fields were also considered in the evaluation of the Aesthetics evaluation.*

**Question:** Understanding that FTA grant won't be able to cover the costs of some of the features and amenities, such as the playing field and playground equipment, where could funds come from?

**Response:** *Greenlink will look to the New Washington Heights community for their partnership and support on additional grant applications and funding requests. The GTA passed a resolution on June 24, 2021 that commits to designing the site to accommodate these features.*

**Question:** Will there be connectivity between the Happy Hearts Community Center and the maintenance facility?

**Response:** *A walking path would be graded. The materials along the path have not been determined at this time.*

**Question:** The community may be considered a historic district. If it is, what does this mean to the community?

**Response:** *If SHPO determines that New Washington Heights is a historic district, it may put restrictions on the neighborhood. There would need to be a local ordinance to go along with the federal declaration to regulate and enforce any requirements. SHPO is looking at the neighborhood and may determine this a historical district.*

**Question:** The DCE report suggests that the Traffic Impact Analysis is currently being reviewed by SCDOT. When will their review be complete and will that be shared with stakeholders?

**Response:** *The TIA has been reviewed and approved by SCDOT District 3 office. A copy of the TIA will be provided to stakeholders via the Greenlink website.*

**Question:** Can you clarify or provide more information on the following which is stated in the report? Specifically, was the generation of hazardous wastes occurring on *this* project site?

- The Site was identified on environmental database under the name Greenville County Recreation District. The Greenville County Recreation District facility was identified on the Resource Conservation Recovery Act – Non-Generator (RCRA-Non Gen) database, the Facility Index System (FINDS) database, and the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database. Greenville County Recreation District was listed as a generator of hazardous wastes including ignitable waste (D001), lead (D008), and spent nonhalogenated solvents (F003 and F005) from at least 2009 to 2014. (Page 121 of the full workshop with attachments).

**Response:** *In regard to hazardous materials on the site, there are none. The designations are associated with the former school having used lead paint and asbestos in the construction of the facility. These materials have been since removed when the school was demolished from the site in 2013. The phase II analysis, which included subsurface exploration and testing of water, found no volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the water. The ignitable waste cited in the DCE refers to*



*construction materials that have been dumped on the site since the school was removed in 2013. These materials will be removed with the development of the site.*

**Question:** How will *local* air quality be monitored and how will impacts be mitigated if necessary. The potential for local air quality impacts has been a longstanding concern voiced by community members. The question in the worksheet of whether the project has the potential to impact air quality was answered “no”. This seems inconsistent with this line from the air quality assessment, “*The addition of transit facilities can cause slight local increases in certain air quality pollutants, while reducing emission levels at a regional scale due to the reduction in passenger vehicle traffic resulting from enhanced transit.*” While it is clear that the expansion of transit services could/should reduce emissions on a regional scale -- which greatly benefits our community at large -- the suggestion from the assessment is that the facility could lead to “slight local increases in certain air quality pollutants”. What measures will be taken to monitor for such “slight increases” and to mitigate the impact to New Washington Heights' residents should they occur?

**Response:** *In regard to monitoring of air quality for the site, the New Washington Heights neighborhood is working SC DHEC to install an air quality monitoring station in the neighborhood to collect data once the facility is constructed. In regard to the DCE, the statement made “The addition of transit facilities can cause slight local increases in certain air quality pollutants, while reducing emission levels at a regional scale due to the reduction in passenger vehicle traffic resulting from enhanced transit.” refers to the change in the site from a previously developed site to a developed site. As such with the presence of the site and the nature of the land use – bus facility – emissions from the site will increase. However, when considering the makeup of the fleet – diesel, compressed natural gas, and electric – and the long-term plan to phase out all diesel vehicles to CNG and electric, emissions will continue to decrease on the site. Furthermore, the site will be built in a manner that it reduces its footprint on the environment through its physical design and the materials utilized. As a result, the determination of no air quality impacts was made.*