



# BERKELEY - ORANGEBURG COUNTY BOUNDARY RE-ESTABLISHMENT (Portion from Little Black Creek to Lake Marion)





### **Overview**

- Reason for boundary clarification
- Why is the SC Geodetic Survey the chosen agency
- The requirements and duties of the SC Geodetic Survey
- Explanation of our methods
- Boundary clarification procedure
- Legal process for individuals disagreeing with SCGS findings
- Statutory description of county boundary
- Research and findings
- Monumentation and Survey
- Conclusion



### The Reason...

- Passage of time and growth has led to confusion over statutory county descriptions and the locations of county boundary lines
- Exact and precise locations and boundaries of state's political subdivisions are critical for services, enforcement of property rights and election of public officials.
- Technology exists now to cost-effectively provide definite and permanent markers of boundary lines
- Necessary for state government and political subdivisions



# Why the SC Geodetic Survey?

- Over the last 30+ years, the South Carolina Geodetic Survey has worked with South Carolina counties to help resolve some of the ambiguities present in the current Code of Law
- SC Geodetic Survey was also used in the clarification of the NC/SC boundary
- In the early 90's Greenville and Spartanburg counties asked the Geodetic Survey to help them work out the location of their Statutory Boundary. Their boundary was clarified and placed into law.
- After it's completion the General Assembly decided to enact legislation assigning the SC Geodetic Survey as the mediator to resolve disputes between counties.

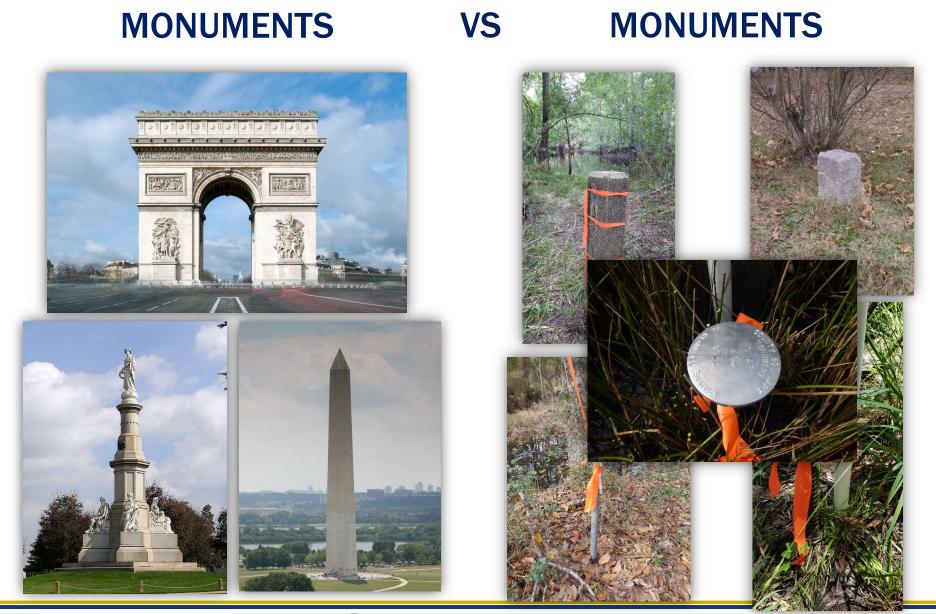


# The duties of the SC Geodetic Survey (SCGS) with respect to determining county boundaries

#### <u>SC Code of Laws §27-2-105</u> Act No. 262 of 2014

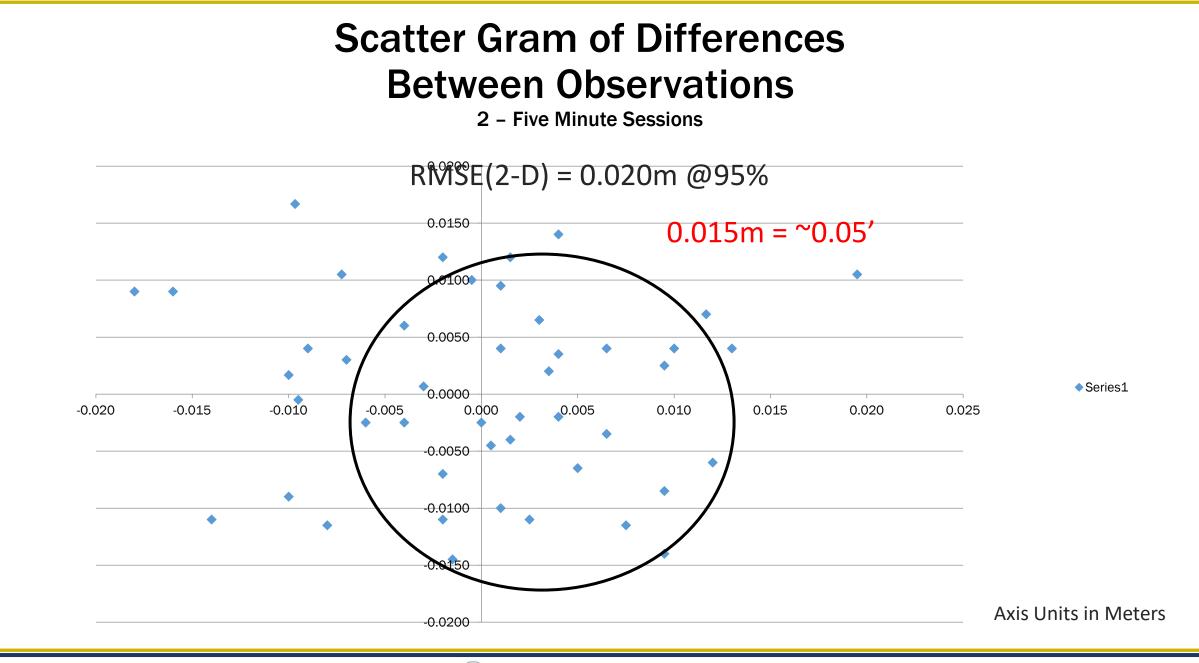
- (1994) Dispute between two or more counties- SCGS will act as mediator to resolve the dispute
- (1994/2014) SCGS to assist counties in defining and monumenting the locations of county boundaries and positioning the monuments using geodetic surveys where counties are ill-defined, unmarked, or poorly marked
- (2014) SCGS will clarify county boundaries as defined in Chapter 3, Title 4
- (2014) SCGS will analyze archival and other evidence and perform field surveys to position geographically all county boundaries in accordance with statutory descriptions
- (2014) To amend section 27-2-105, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the duties of the South Carolina Geodetic Survey (SCGS) with respect to determining county boundaries, so as to authorize and direct the SCGS to clarify county boundaries and mediate boundary disputes between counties by providing a procedure allowing the SCGS administratively to adjust county boundaries, to provide the procedures including notice that SCGS must follow in making such adjustments, to provide that affected parties may appeal these adjustments to the Administrative Law Court in a de novo hearing, to provide the method of determining the effective date of these administrative county boundary adjustments and the notice requirements for these adjustments to be effective and to provide that nothing contained in this administrative process restricts the authority of the General Assembly by legislative enactment to adjust or otherwise clarify county boundaries by legislative enactment.

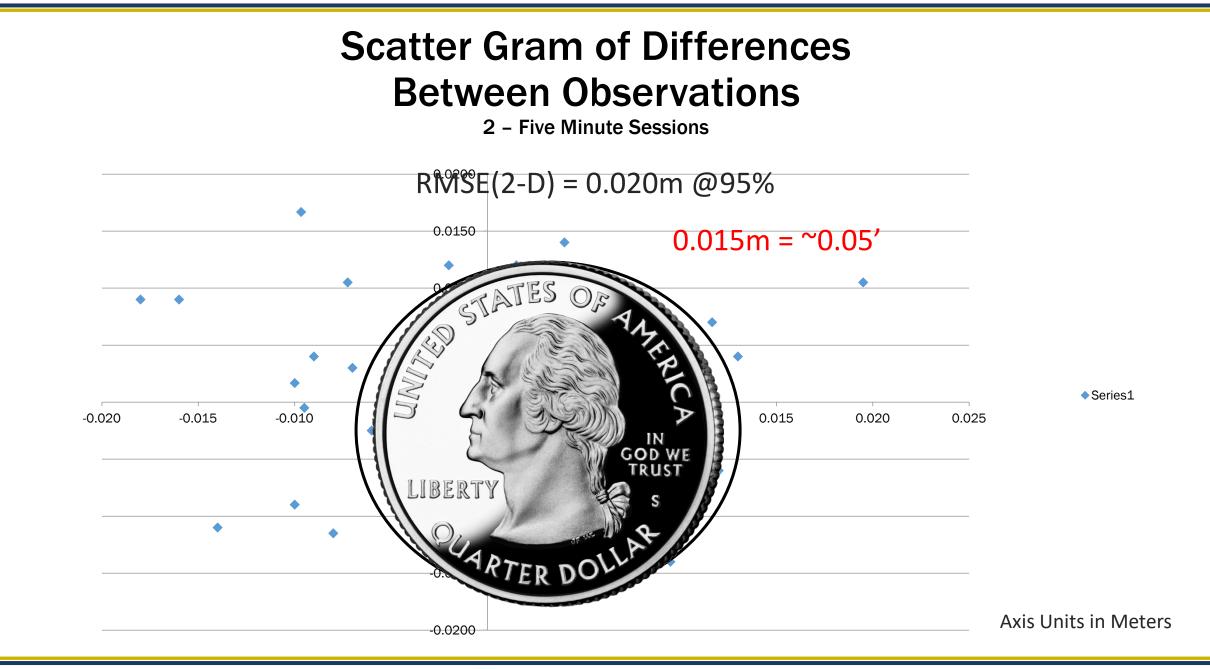


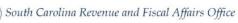












### Steps for Clarifying Boundaries SC Code of Law SECTION 27-2-105

#### **SCGS Requirements:**

- Upon reestablishing county boundary, SCGS shall certify its work and within 30 days of certification:
  - Provide copies to the administrator of each affected county;
  - Provide written notification to affected parties
  - Provide notice and copies to the public through its official website and or other means it considers appropriate; and
  - Notify as it determines appropriate, other affected state and federal agencies
- (Initiates 60 Day Appeal Process)
- Certified Surveys submitted to Secretary of State, Register of Deeds Offices, and South Carolina Department of Archives with Cover Letter
- Date of the cover letter is the date the surveys become effective
- Introduce Legislation to update Code of Law to reflect clarified boundary with State Plane Coordinates



### **SCGS Steps for Clarifying Boundaries**

- Notify County Administrators in advance of planned work
- Conduct historical research for documentary evidence of boundaries\*
- Perform field work to locate monuments and corroborating evidence and position on State Plane Coordinates\*
- Share preliminary findings with county officials for impact analysis and to plan public meetings
- Hold public meeting
- Receive feedback and input from local officials and public
- Review and update findings, as appropriate
- Certify plats\*
- Send out mailings to affected parties along boundary\*
- 60day window for appeals\*
- Record/File plats\*



# SC Code of Law SECTION 27-2-105

### •Affected Parties Disagreeing with SCGS:

• May file request for a contested case hearing with the SC Administrative Law Court

• This decision may be appealed

- "Affected Party"
  - Governing body of an affected county
  - Governing body of a political subdivision of this State
  - An elected official, other than a statewide elected official
  - A property owner or an individual residing in the certification zone
  - A business entity located in the certification zone
  - A nonresident individual who owns or leases real property situated in the certification zone



#### Chapter 5, Title 4

#### • Change of Boundaries

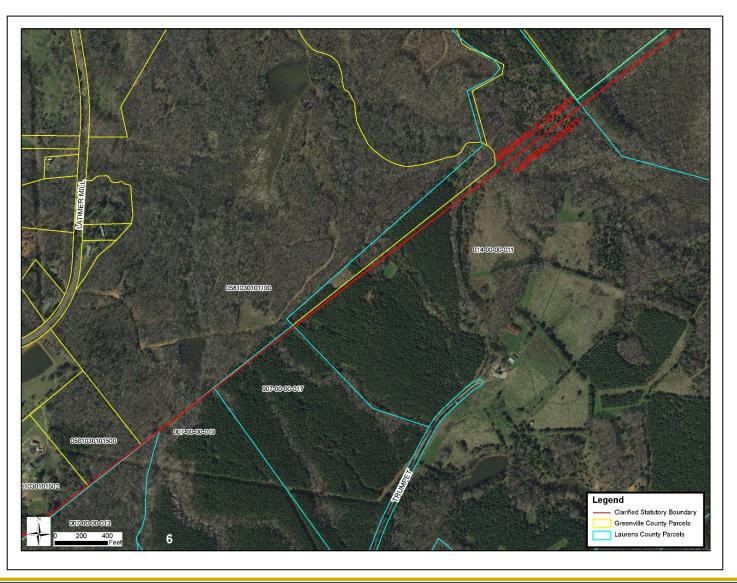
- S.C. Code § 4-5-120: Procedure for annexing part of county- governing body or 10 percent of registered voters petition in writing, shall deposit with the clerk of court an amount of money sufficient to cover the expenses of surveys, plats, annexation commission and the election to be held to determine whether the proposed annexation shall be effected and then file such resolution or petition in the office of the clerk of court
- S.C. Code § 4-5-130: Appointment of Commission for annexation- once presented to the governor then within 30 days the governor shall appoint a commission of four persons
- S.C. Code § 4-5-140: Employment of Surveyors- commission may contract for survey and location of the proposed change of line and for such purpose may employ 3 surveyors
- S.C. Code § 4-5-170: Governor shall order election; voting place; eligible electors- to be held in an area sought to be transferred and an election to be held in the county to which the area is proposed to be transferred
- Propose and adopt Legislation



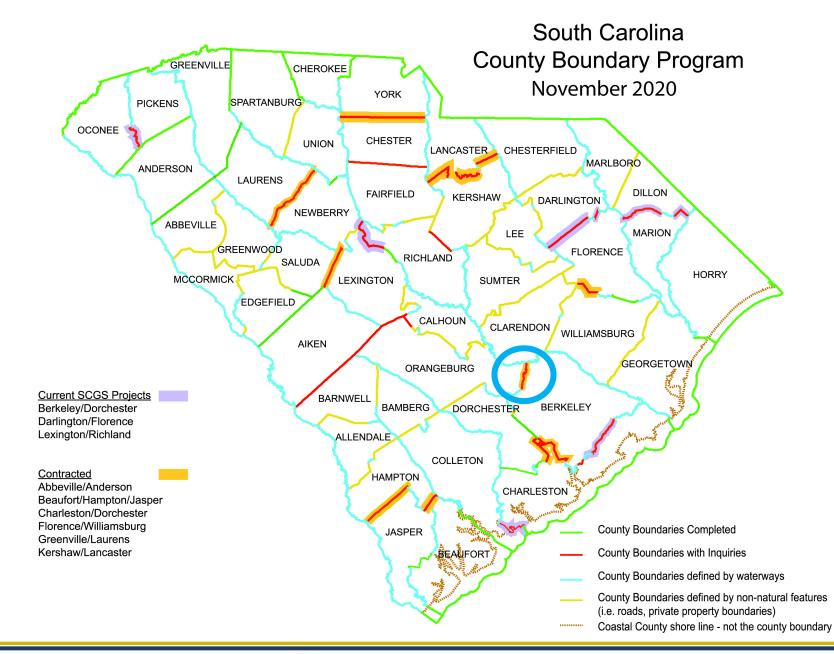
### **Public Meeting Notification (Example)**



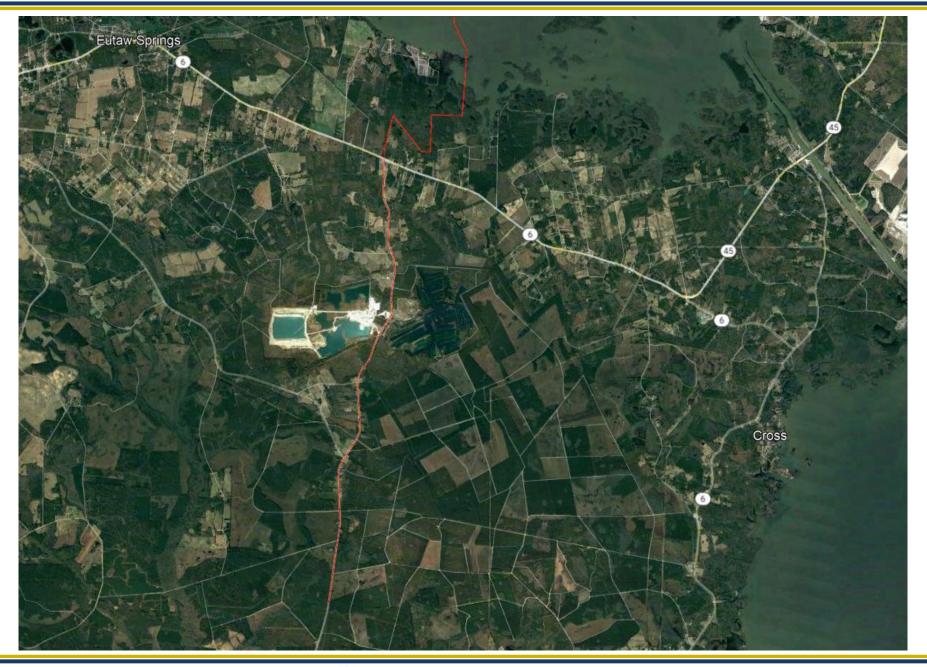
### **Public Meeting Notification (Example)**













### Lines are Established by Legislative Acts

-Act 485 of 1910: "...Annexation of a Certain Portion of Berkeley County to Orangeburg County..."

-1976 South Carolina Code of Laws

-Unannotated

-Updated through the end of the 2019 Session

**Title 4 - Counties** 

CHAPTER 3.

BOUNDARIES OF EXISTING COUNTIES



### SECTION 4-3-80. Berkely County

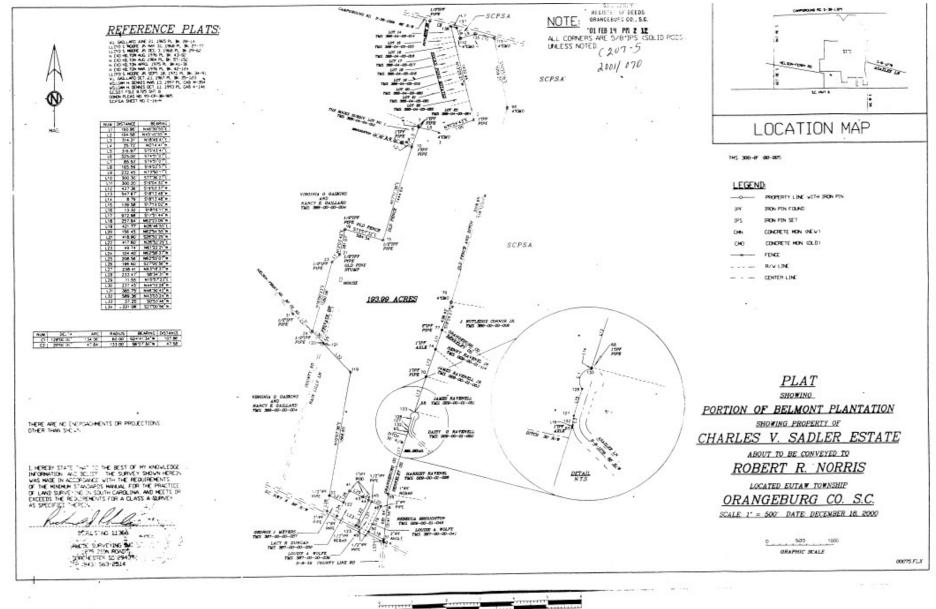
Berkeley County is bounded as follows: northeastwardly and north by the Santee River, separating it from the counties of Georgetown, Williamsburg and Clarendon; northwestwardly by Orangeburg County; southwestwardly by Dorchester County; southwestwardly and southeastwardly by Charleston County. And said Berkeley County shall include within its limits the whole of the subdivision formerly known as the Parishes of St. John, Berkeley, St. Stephen, St. Thomas and St. Dennis, and parts of the subdivisions formerly known as St. James Goose Creek, St. James Santee and St. Andrews; provided, that the county lines of Berkeley County and of Orangeburg County are hereby so altered as to cut off from said Berkeley County and to transfer and annex to and incorporate within said Orangeburg County all of that certain territory or portion of Berkeley County embraced within the following lines and boundaries, to wit: beginning at a point located on Four Holes Swamp at the intersection of the boundary lines of Orangeburg, Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, and extending in a southeasterly direction, along Four Holes Swamp, the same being the boundary between Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, to a large cypress which stands at the confluence of Four Holes and Dean Swamps, at the upper part of Turkey Lake; thence up and along the run of Dean Swamp as it meanders to a point where Dean Swamp and Black Creek unite; thence up Black Creek to the point where Big Black Creek and Little Black Creek unite; thence up Little Black Creek to the point where the "new road" crosses said Little Black Creek; thence northerly up the "new road" to the Monck's Corner Public Road, near Mark Richardson's place; thence N. 10 chains to a pine; then N. 14° E. 38 chains to a stake; thence S. 37° 15' E. 49 chains to a stake; thence E. 9.70 chains to a stake; thence N. 39.50 chains to a stake; thence N. 87° E. 34 chains and 10 links; thence N. 54.50 chains to a stake; thence N. 1° 30' W. 18 chains and 60 links to a stake; thence N. 30° W. 31 chains to a stake; thence N. 8° W. 11 chains to a cypress at the River Road and Rock Creek Bridge; thence northeast along Rock Creek to where Rock Creek empties into the Santee River; thence up the Santee River to the mouth of Eutaw Creek, where the Orangeburg and Berkeley lines connect; thence southwest along the boundary line between Orangeburg and Berkeley Counties to the point of beginning



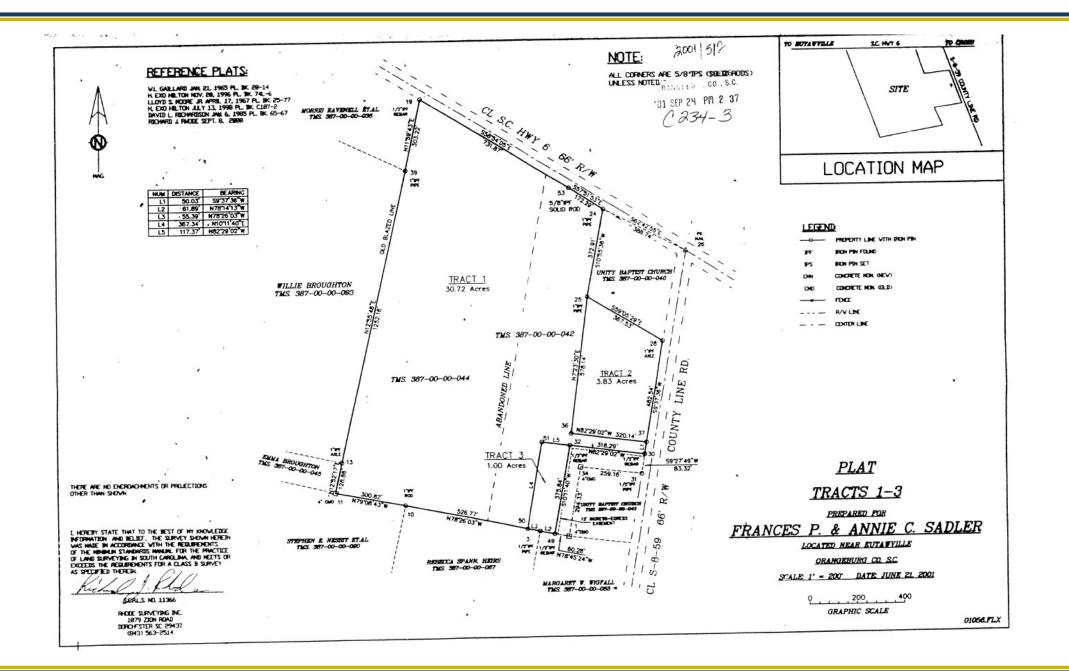
# SECTION 4-3-430. Orangeburg County

"... Little Black Creek to the point where the "new road" crosses said Little Black Creek; thence northerly up the "new road" to the Monck's Corner Public Road, near Mark Richardson's place; thence N. 10 chains to a pine; then N. 14° E. 38 chains to a stake; thence S. 37° 15' E. 49 chains to a stake; thence E. 9.70 chains to a stake; thence N. 39.50 chains to a stake; thence N. 87° E. 34 chains and 10 links; thence N. 54.50 chains to a stake; thence N. 1° 30' W. 18 chains and 60 links to a stake; thence N. 30° W. 31 chains to a stake; thence N. 8° W. 11 chains to a cypress at the River Road and Rock Creek Bridge; ..."





CORPORATION

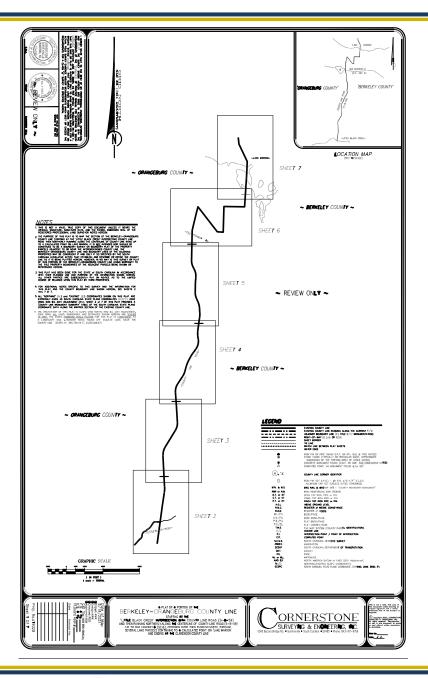


# **Survey Update**

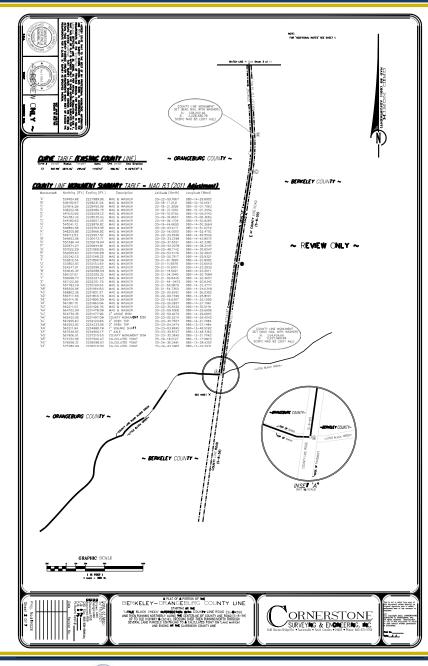
Field Work is at 100% Complete, monuments have been set.

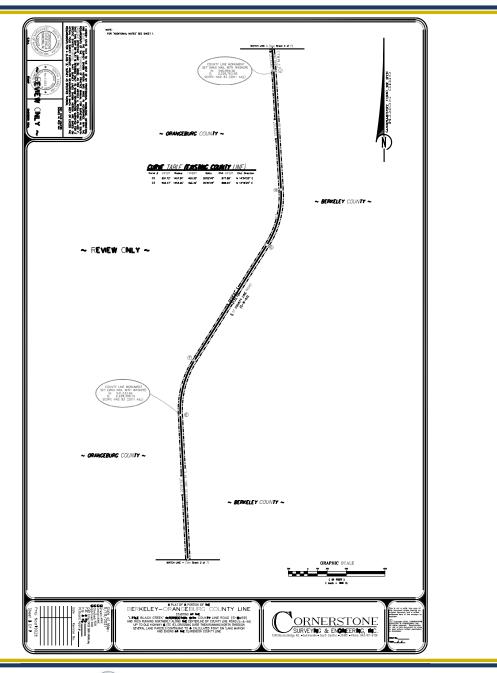
We have not encountered any boundary problems outside the "expected" normal that is seen in tracing a 40 plus year old line.

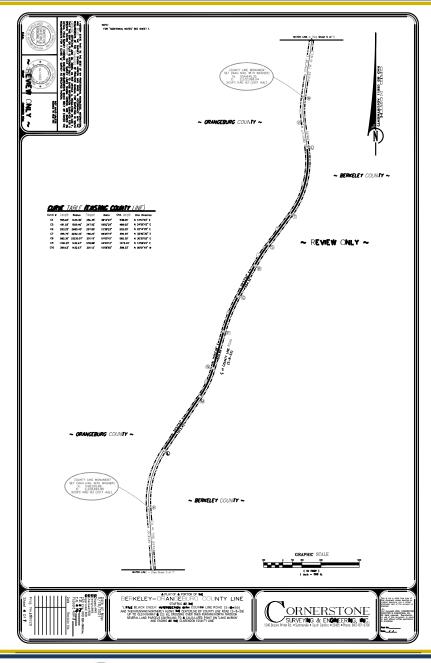


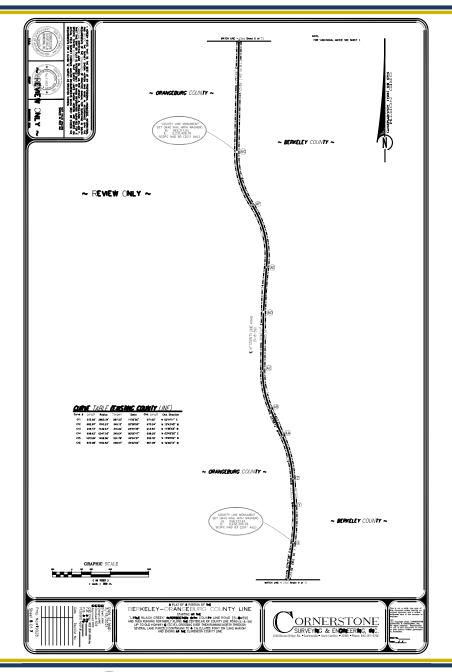


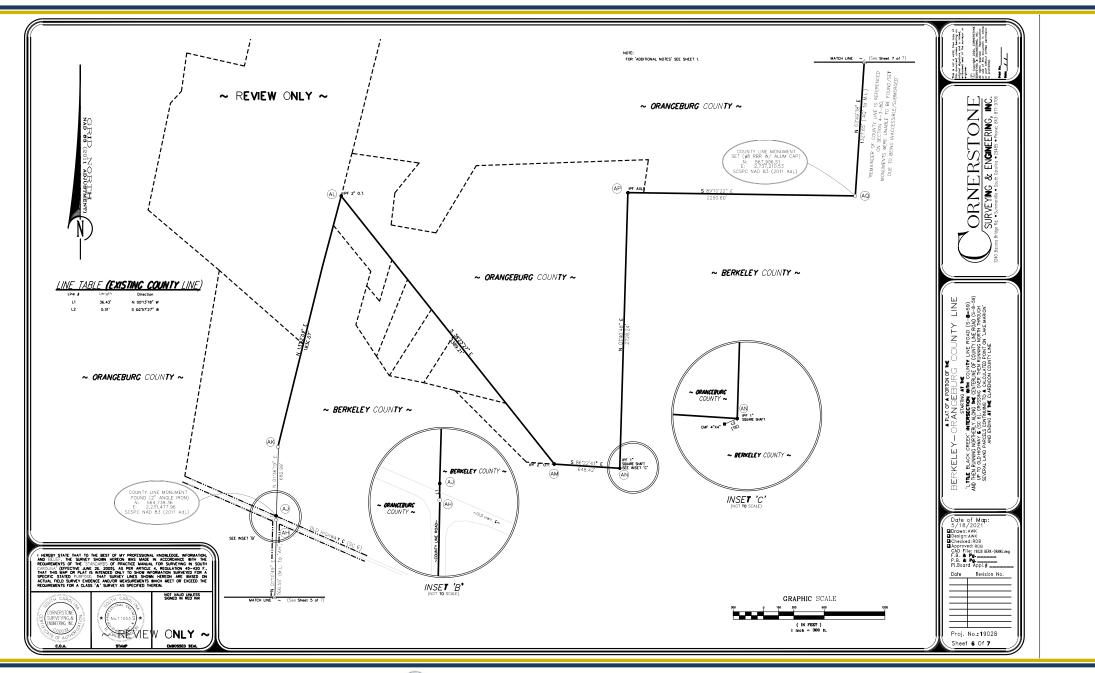


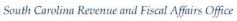




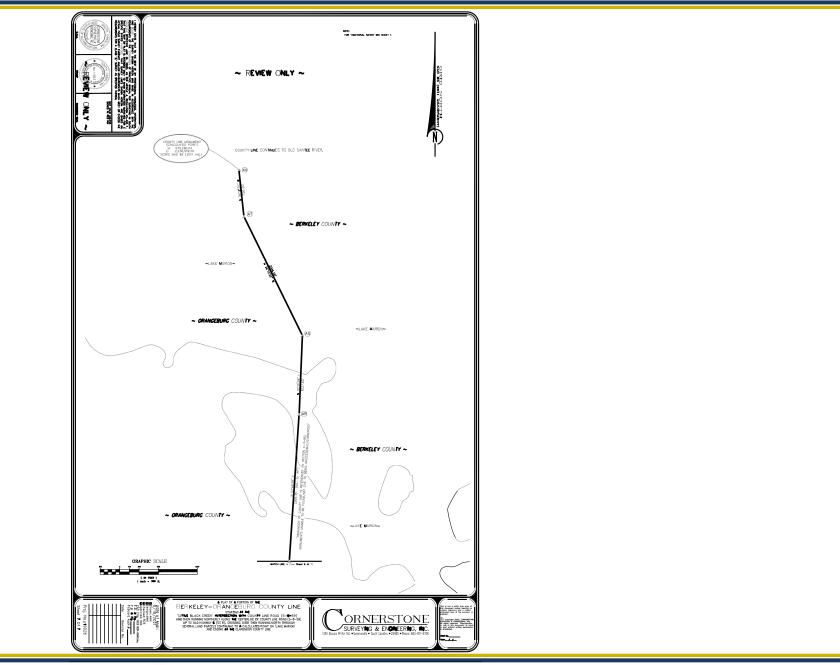








E(I)



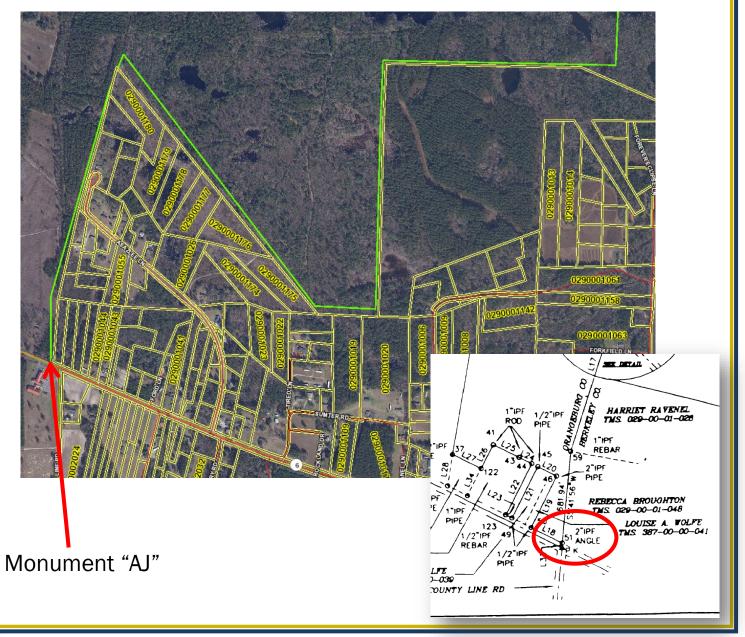


Monument "A" through "AH" are Set Nail and Washer

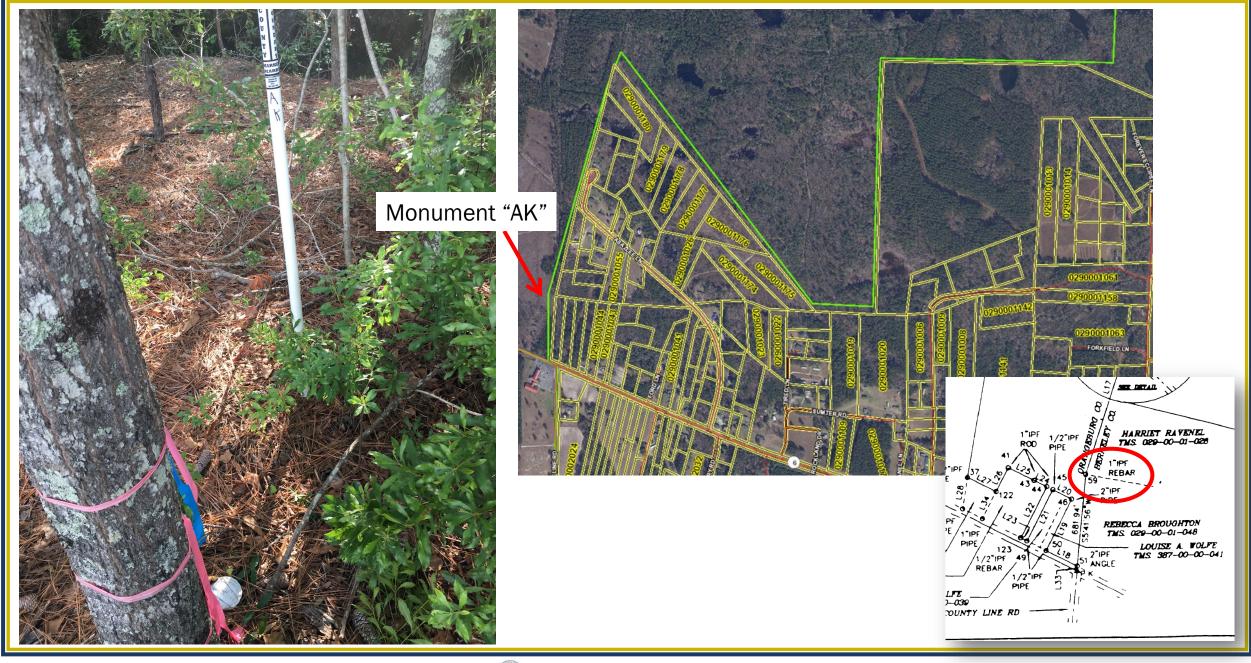


Corner Set is a Nail and 1-1/2 inch



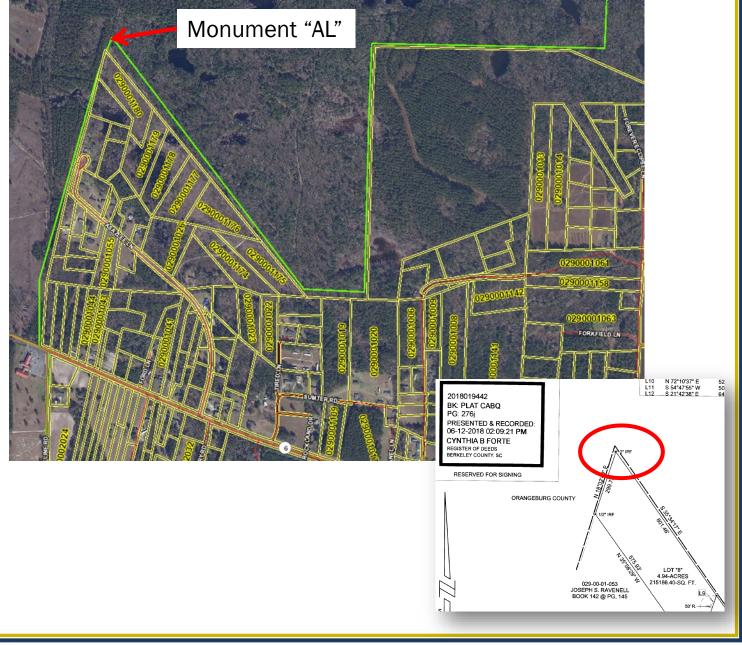


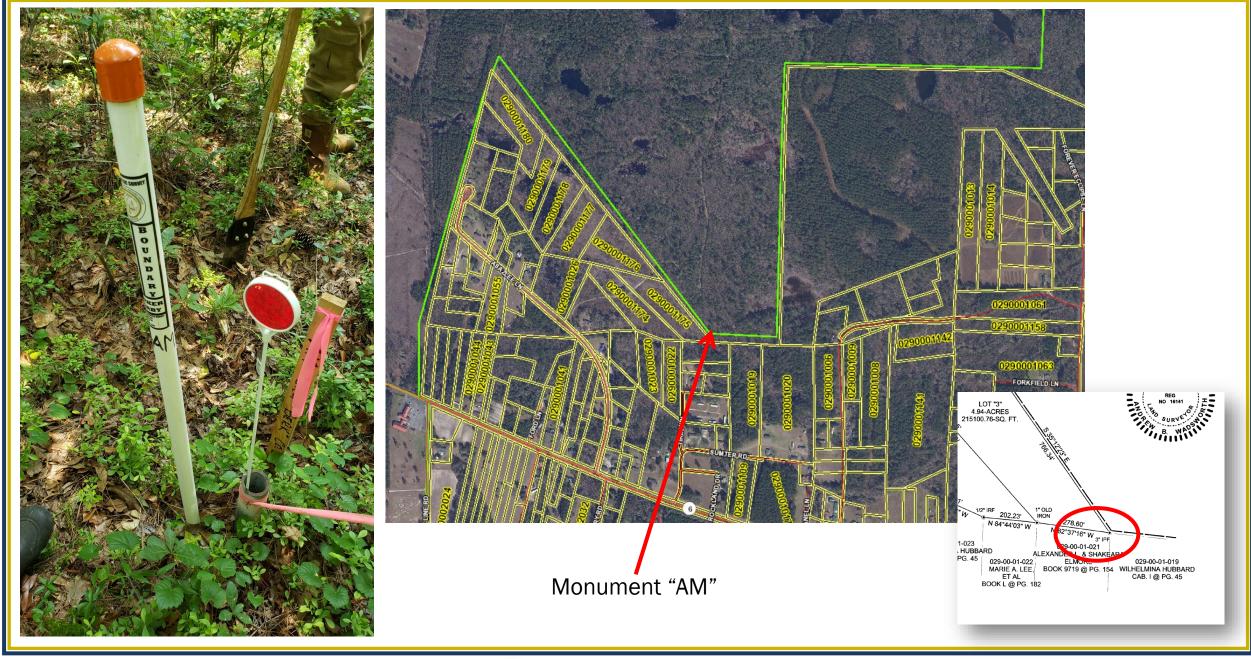




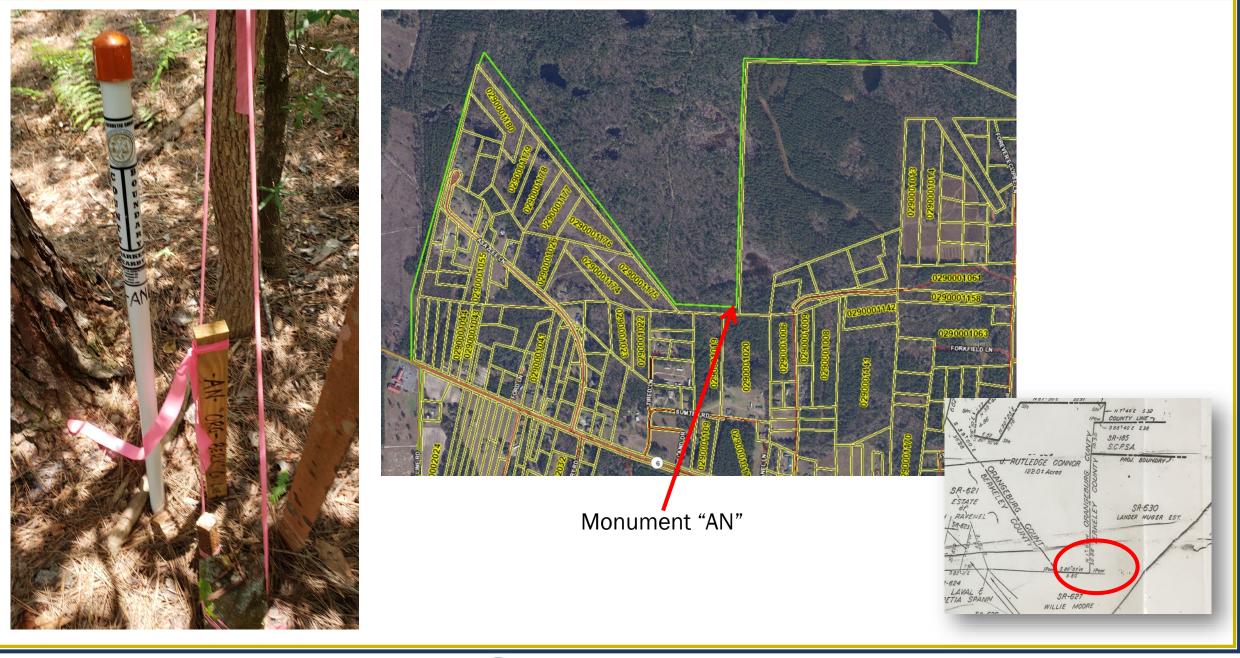




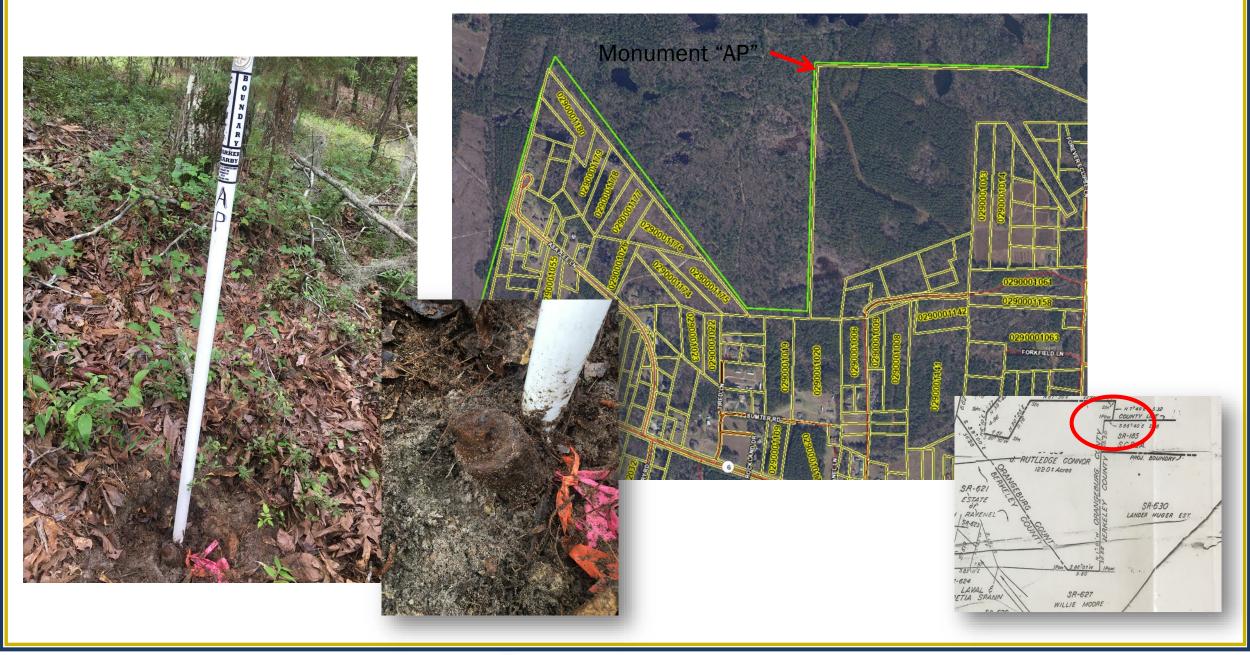






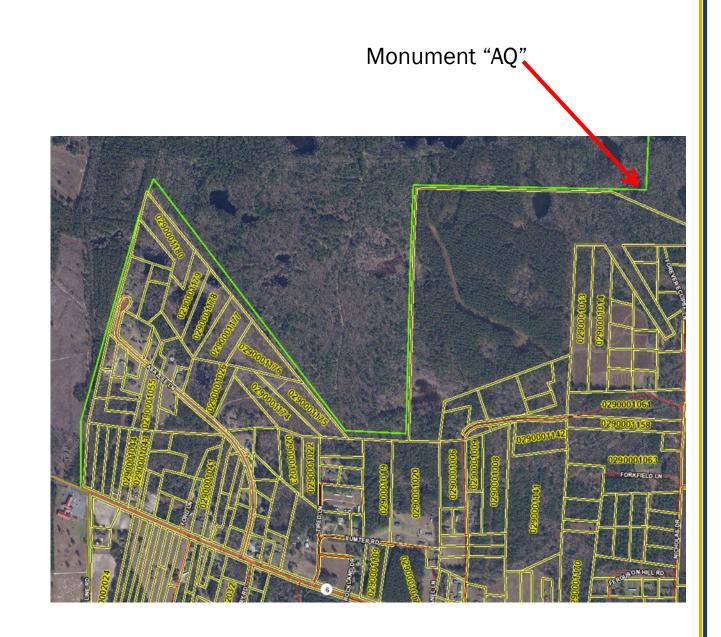














# **Project Page:**

rfa.sc.gov/programs-services/geodetic/county/berkeley-orangeburg

# **QUESTIONS?**

**Or Information You Would Like to Provide?** 

PLEASE CALL: 803-734-3793

or EMAIL: <a href="mailto:boundary@rfa.sc.gov">boundary@rfa.sc.gov</a>

We Will Work to Address Questions Promptly or Direct Questions to the Appropriate Agency or Jurisdictional Entity

