1. DHEC-OCRM and SHPO Coastal Zone Review

After two years of consultation, DHEC-OCRM and SHPO have finalized a revised method of review for permits within the coastal zone of South Carolina. The three main changes to the method of review include:

--Cultural resource identification surveys will no longer be a part of OCRM permits
--All properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are considered Geographic Areas of Particular Concern (GAPCs) and receive the highest level of protection in the Coastal Zone
--All properties that have been previously identified as eligible for the National Register are considered significant properties. Those properties identified as “need evaluation,” “potentially eligible,” and “potentially not eligible” do not receive consideration in the permitting process.

Read the revised process here: http://shpo.sc.gov/revcomp/process/dhec_ocrmreview.htm.

2. Rice Fields and Section 106: SHPO Guidance for Federal Agencies and Applicants

In conjunction with a new Corps of Engineers General Permit on maintenance and management activities in rice fields, the SHPO has developed policy and guidance on our review of projects in rice fields. The SHPO considers all rice fields to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, unless the fields no longer retain specific aspects of integrity.

The guidance includes a brief history of rice fields, information on existing surveys, a glossary, recommended reading, and tips for working with Section 106 on rice field projects. Download the guidance on our website: http://shpo.sc.gov/revcomp/guidance/.

3. 2012 South Carolina Preservation Conference
Mark your calendars for March 29 and 30, 2012 for the annual South Carolina Preservation Conference. The conference will be held at the Archives and History Center in Columbia.

Do you have an idea for a session or for a poster in the conference? Visit http://shpo.sc.gov/conf/landpconference/preservationconference.htm to see how to submit a session or a poster proposal!

4. New SHPO Website

The SHPO is in the process of updating its website. We hope the new website will go live in December 2011. All links to SHPO documents and webpages will need to be updated at that time. Look for our announcement coming soon!