

TIDAL WAVES & CAT4 HURRICANE THREATEN SCE&G UTILITY PROJECT

NEW SOUTH BATTENS DOWN THE HATCHES AND PROTECTS PROJECT SITE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Location

Cainhoy, South Carolina
Cooper River Tidal Marsh

Project Stats

Number of Mats: 10,000

Mat Types/Sizes: 15

Road/Bridge Construction: 28' wide emtek wetland access system (EWAS) to accommodate very large cranes; flotation road, a 52' clear-span bridge, a steel bridge, 50' x 50' work pads, temporary timber mat road

Project Duration: 8 months



Project Profile

Challenging Wetland Access Project in South Carolina

Protecting the wetlands when completing any energy project can be one of the biggest challenges. This was no different when New South approached one of the largest access projects in their history.

Cainhoy, South Carolina is situated on an intercoastal waterway presenting challenges with tidal waves and the threat of catastrophic flooding from Hurricane Florence that hit the Carolina coast in September. Utilizing New South's exclusive emtek® wetland access system provided the safest access solution available.



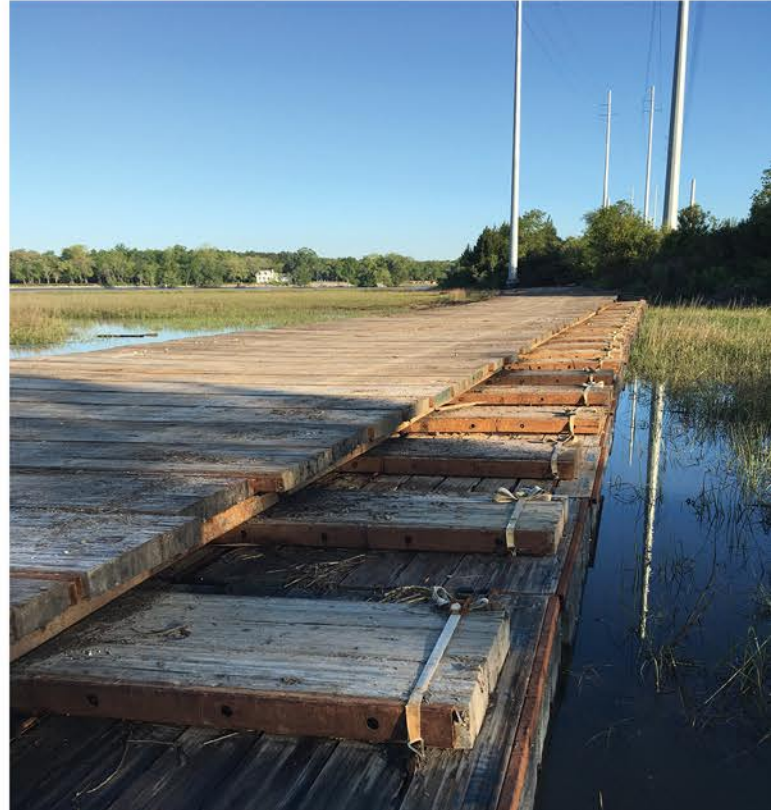
"New South's proactive efforts to identify safety threats and offer safe and efficient access solutions for Cainhoy far surpassed all expectations. Working closely with their PMs on the project, we were able to double our production laying as many as 4-5 cans per day on a challenging site."

Project Manager
MasTec

Summation

Storms threaten many projects and are also what create the demands for heavy matting. In this case, the wetland already required an extensive wetland access system covering a large area. What was not expected was the hurricane that threatened the project. New South's crews worked expertly to ensure that the emtek® wetland system was secured in the event that Hurricane Florence hit.

Upon the conclusion of the project, SCE&G (South Carolina Electric & Gas) and MasTec (utility contractor) were extremely pleased with the safety and efficiency of the access provided as their crews more than doubled their daily production.



Challenges/Solutions

Hurricane Florence

Working in a coastal area during hurricane season is always challenging. The regional manager over this project is from Florida and was well prepared for this challenge. In September, Hurricane Florence threatened the South Carolina coast and waterways with destruction and massive flooding. When heavy flooding and storms is eminent, it's critical that all mats are firmly secured. Otherwise, not only will the access system be disrupted and mats be dispersed throughout the project, but millions of dollars could be lost in mat inventory and spent on rebuilding the access roads.

As the hurricane increased in intensity, our crews responded quickly securing all access mats and materials. No people, mats or equipment on the Cainhoy project site were damaged during the storm.

Tidal Waves

Tidal waves are unpredictable and pose a safety threat. The Cooper River flows into the Atlantic Ocean causing further concern during hurricane season. Emtek access engineer Fuitak and New South operations manager Wood performed an in-depth study of the tide charts and Cainhoy project site ground conditions to design a safe and efficient access plan for utility crews.

Logistics

Several logistical challenges were faced at Cainhoy. The first challenge was managing the delivery and unloading of 600 truckloads of 10,000 access mats, bridging material, civil material, and deploying to various stages of the project. Half of the deliveries were unloaded at the high security Williams Power Plant and required an escort on and off the property.

Our teams made communication a priority by ensuring regional managers, project managers, and all crews worked closely with utility crews and the third party barge crews to properly orchestrate the various moving parts while managing the access for phase one and three.