

1.6 FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS

1.6.1 What is the Study Area?

A study area is defined as the area that may be directly and indirectly affected by the Proposed Project as shown in Figure 1.6-1. The study area was optimized to be the most appropriate boundary for the most resources; if the study area varies for a specific resource, it is defined in the affected environment section for that resource (Chapter 3). The study area for this EIS is based on and includes areas that may be directly impacted by construction and operation of the ICTF and components (off-site rail and roadway improvements).

1.6.2 What is the Project Site?

The Project site is a subset of the study area and is defined as the area of potential direct impacts on the resources. The Project site is shown on Figure 1.6-1 and includes the impact areas, also known as limits of construction, for the approximately 135-acre ICTF and the associated roadway and rail improvements.

1.7 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project, as submitted by Palmetto Railways, consists of constructing and operating an ICTF on approximately 135 acres for the facility site, and undertaking off-site roadway and rail improvements for a total of 231.28 acres. The intermodal facility would include, but is not limited to, processing and classification railroad tracks, wide-span gantry cranes, container stacking areas, administrative buildings, and vehicle driving lanes. The off-site infrastructure improvements would include building: (1) a private drayage road and associated bridges approximately 1 mile long connecting the ICTF to the HLT, (2) rail improvements to the north and south of the ICTF resulting in 174,410 feet of new track, and (3) several roadway improvements and modifications, including the construction of a new overpass. As identified on Figure 1.7-1, the Proposed Project consists of the ICTF and proposed rail and roadway improvements.

Wide-span gantry crane: A crane that may be rail mounted or on tires, with a span of adequate width to straddle several rows of cargo containers. The crane is used to manage and stack cargo.