U.S. 178 repairs may take until late August

By E. Richard Walton
Staff Writer

Repair work to a quarter mile section of U.S. 178 near the North Carolina state line that was washed out by a mudslide may not be finished until the end of August, a state engineer said.

The contractors, hired by the state's Department of Transportation, had hoped to repair the damage by early August, said Steven Henderson, a state resident engineer based in Pickens County.

A detour that takes about 30 minutes will remain in place until the road is reopened, according to the South Carolina Department of Transportation, which is working in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation

Henderson said the first job is to stabilize the soil where the 40-foot pipe once was near Sassafras Mountain.

As soon as one contractor stabilizes the mud, then the pipe repair will be conducted, he said.

The heavy rains that have plagued the Upstate this summer must be factored into the timeline, Henderson said Wednesday.

Henderson said he didn't know the cost of the repairs.