



ROY COOPER

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LINDA CULPEPPER

Interim Director

January XX, 2018

DWR # 14-0957 v2

Northampton, Halifax, Nash,
Wilson, Johnston, Sampson,
Cumberland and Robeson Counties

CERTIFIED MAIL: XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Attn: Ms. Leslie Hartz
707 E. Main Street, 19th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

DRAFT

**Subject: DENIAL OF 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND TAR-PAMLICO/NEUSE RIPARIAN
BUFFER AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATES**

Atlantic Coast Pipeline
USACE Action ID. No. SAW-2014-01558

Dear Ms. Hartz:

On May 9, 2017, the Division of Water Resources (Division) received your application requesting a 401 Water Quality Certification and Tar-Pamlico and Neuse Riparian Buffer Authorization Certificates from the Division for the subject project. Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02H .0506, a certification shall be issued when the Director determines that water quality standards are met. Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02B .0233 (8) and .0259 (8), a Buffer Authorization Certificate shall be granted when the Division determines there is no practical alternative. The project has not met the following requirements:

- **Rule Citation**

"Rule text..."

Explanation...

- ...

In accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .0507(e), 15A NCAC 02B .0233(8), and 15A NCAC 02B .0259(8), your application for a 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Authorization Certificates are hereby denied.

This decision can be contested as provided in General Statute 150B by filing a written petition for an administrative hearing to the Office of Administrative Hearings (hereby known as OAH) **within sixty (60) calendar days.**

A petition form may be obtained from the OAH at <http://www.ncoah.com/> or by calling the OAH Clerk's Office at (919) 431-3000 for information. A petition is considered filed when the original and one (1) copy along with any applicable OAH filing fee is received in the OAH during normal office hours (Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm, excluding official state holidays).

The petition may be faxed to the OAH at (919) 431-3100, provided the original and one copy of the petition along with any applicable OAH filing fee is received by the OAH within five (5) business days following the faxed transmission.

Mailing address for the OAH:

If sending via US Postal Service:

Office of Administrative Hearings
6714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6714

If sending via delivery service (UPS, FedEx, etc):

Office of Administrative Hearings
1711 New Hope Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27609-6285

One (1) copy of the petition must also be served to DEQ:

William F. Lane, General Counsel
Department of Environmental Quality
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

This completes the review of the Division under section 401 of the Clean Water Act and 15A NCAC 02H .0500 and the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Protection Rules. Please be aware that you have no authorization under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act or the Neuse/Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Protection Rules for this activity and any work done within waters of the state may be a violation of North Carolina General Statutes and Administrative Code. Contact Karen Higgins at 919-807-6360 or karen.higgins@ncdenr.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Linda Culpepper, Interim Director
Division of Water Resources

cc: Richard Gangle, Dominion Resources Services, Inc. (via richard.b.gangle@dom.com)
Spencer Trichell, Dominion Resources Services, Inc. (via spencer.trichell@dom.com)
USACE Raleigh Regulatory Field Office
USACE Wilmington Regulatory Field Office
Todd Bowers, EPA (via bowers.todd@epa.gov)
DWR 401 & Buffer Permitting Branch file