




North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

October 1, 2009

TO: Environmental Review Commission Members

FROM: Dee Freeman, Secretary 

RE: Annual Report on Basinwide Water Quality Management Plans

G.S. 143-215.8B requires the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to report to the Environmental Review Commission each year on the progress in developing and implementing basinwide water quality management plans and on increasing public involvement and public education in connection with basinwide water quality management planning. If you have any questions please contact Alan Clark at (919) 807-6441.

Attachment

cc: Coleen Sullins

The Division of Water Quality Basinwide Planning Program's Annual Report to the ERC – October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009

During this reporting period, the Basinwide Planning Unit completed the Broad, Yadkin and Neuse River Basin Water Quality Management Plans and has begun work on the Catawba, Lumber and Tar Pamlico plans. Those plans will be completed by June 2010.

Staff activities related to development and implementation of current plans included:

- Implementation of the Neuse River Basin Action Plan found in the Neuse River Basinwide Water Quality Plan approved by the EMC in July 2009. Presented Phase II delegations to the WQC for public release. Met with the Division of Air Quality regarding atmospheric deposition. Working on the Falls Lake NSW rules and the CAFO rules including extensive stakeholder involvement. These activities are related to development of nutrient management strategies for drinking water supplies per SB 981 (Session Law 2005-190).
- Participation in several technical advisory groups - Little River Reservoir (EIS and flow study work groups), Wake County - Falls Lake 319, Lick Creek watershed planning, Wake County watershed planning, Swift Creek implementation planning, Falls Lake model/NSW, Cape Fear DO Estuary modeling assessment and on the Rocky River management team.
- Continued work with a variety of stakeholders including Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Catawba Wateree Water Management Group, Dan River Coalition, Centralina Council of Government, and the Roanoke River Bi-State Commission on identifying opportunities for water quality protection and improvement.
- Documenting restoration work in the French Broad, Yadkin, Cape Fear, and Catawba River basins.

The graphs below show the major pollutants or indicators and the percentages of impaired monitored freshwaters by miles and acres they impact. Only those parameters that were exceeded in more than 10 percent of the waters are shown. Biointegrity (biological integrity as indicated by benthic macroinvertebrate and fish communities) is an indicator of impaired aquatic life and shows the impact of a variety of insults to the aquatic system, such as excessive stormwater runoff, erosion, toxicants, metals and other pollutants. Turbidity is a measure of clarity of water and is frequently related to sediment impacts. No metals measured were above standards; however, mercury fish consumption advisories for the entire South Atlantic Coast resulted in all 17 coastal miles of the Tar-Pamlico River basin being rated as impaired. Monitoring conducted by the Division of Environmental Health has closed by proclamation all of the shellfish acreage in the Lumber and all of the coastal miles of shellfish waters in the Tar-Pamlico to shellfish harvesting. These closures are, for the most part, related to stormwater runoff. Also in the Tar-Pamlico, all of the monitored freshwater acres (370 acres in the lower Tar River and Kennedy Creek) exceed the chlorophyll-a standard. These waters are under the Tar-Pamlico River Basin NSW strategy.

**Percentage of Impaired Monitored Freshwaters in the Catawba, Lumber and Tar-Pamlico River Basins
by Indicator or Pollutant**

