NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION

REPORT TO THE
2010 SESSION
of the
2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MAY 11, 2010



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Transmittal Letter	 7
Statutory Authority	 9
Commission Membership	 13
Commission Proceedings	15
Legislative Proposals	



TRANSMITTAL LETTER

May 11, 2010

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2010 REGULAR SESSION OF THE 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to Article 12D of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes, the Environmental Review Commission submits its report and recommendations to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly.

Respectfull	y submitted,
Senator Robert C. Atwater	Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter
Representative Pryor A. Gibson	Representative Pricey T. Harrison

Co-Chairs Environmental Review Commission



STATUTORY AUTHORITY

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES ARTICLE 12D.

Environmental Review Commission.

§ 120-70.41. Commission established.

The Environmental Review Commission is hereby established.

§ 120-70.42. Membership; cochairs; vacancies; quorum.

- (a) The Environmental Review Commission shall consist of six Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, six Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing officer, the Chair or a Cochair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources or the equivalent committee, the Chair or a Cochair of the House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Natural Resources or the equivalent committee, the Chair or a Cochair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations Natural and Economic Resources or the equivalent committee, and the Chair or a Cochair of the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Natural and Economic Resources or the equivalent committee.
- (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one Senator to serve as cochair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one Representative to serve as cochair.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Commission shall continue to serve for so long as the member remains a member of the General Assembly and no successor has been appointed. A member of the Commission who does not seek reelection or is not reelected to the General Assembly may complete a term of service on the Commission until the day on which a new General Assembly convenes. A member of the Commission who resigns or is removed from service in the General Assembly shall be deemed to have resigned or been removed from service on the Commission. Any vacancy that occurs on the Environmental Review Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- (d) A quorum of the Environmental Review Commission shall consist of nine members.

§ 120-70.43. Powers and duties.

- (a) The Environmental Review Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
 - (1) To evaluate actions of all boards, commissions, departments, and other agencies of the State and local governments as such actions relate to the environment or protection of the environment, including but not limited to an evaluation of:
 - a. Benefits of each program relative to costs;

- b. Achievement of program goals;
- c. Use of measures by which the success or failure of a program can be measured; and
- d. Conformity with legislative intent;
- (2) To study on a continuing basis the organization of State government as it relates to the environment or to the protection of public health and the environment, including but not limited to:
 - a. Improvements in administrative structure, practices, and procedures;
 - b. Increased integration and coordination of programs and functions;
 - c. Increased efficiency in budgeting and use of resources;
 - d. Efficient administration of licensing, permitting, and grant programs;
 - e. Prompt, effective response to environmental emergencies;
 - f. Opportunities for effective citizen participation; and
 - g. Broadening of career opportunities for professional staff;
- (3) To make any recommendations it deems appropriate regarding the reorganization and consolidation of environmental regulatory agencies and the recodification of statutes relating to the environment, including but not limited to:
 - a. Ways in which agencies may operate more efficiently and economically;
 - b. Ways in which agencies can provide better services to the State and to the people; and
 - c. Instances in which functions of agencies are duplicative, overlapping, incomplete in scope or coverage, fail to accomplish legislative objectives, or for any other reason should be redefined or redistributed;
- (4) To review and evaluate changes in federal law and regulations, relevant court decisions, and changes in technology affecting the environment or protection of the environment;
- (5) To review existing and proposed State law and rules affecting the environment or protection of the environment and to determine whether any modification of law or rules is in the public interest;
- (6) To make reports and recommendations, including draft legislation, to the General Assembly from time to time as to any matter relating to the powers and duties set out in this section; and
- (7) To undertake such additional studies as it deems appropriate or as may from time to time be requested by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, either house of the General Assembly, the Legislative Research Commission, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Utility Review Committee, or the Joint Select Committee on Low-Level Radioactive Waste and to make such reports and recommendations to the General Assembly regarding such studies as it

deems appropriate; provided that the Environmental Review Commission shall not undertake any study which the General Assembly has assigned to another legislative commission or committee.

- (b) The Environmental Review Commission may continue the study of environmental agency consolidation and reorganization. The study of environmental agency consolidation shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (1) Monitoring the implementation of Session Laws 1989, c. 727;
 - (2) Evaluation of the organization, programs, and operation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
 - (3) Evaluation of the organization, functions, powers, and duties of the components of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including boards, commissions, councils, and regional offices; and
 - (4) Recodification of the General Statutes relating to the environment and environmental agencies.
- (c) In addition to its general powers and duties, the Environmental Review Commission shall have the following powers and duties with respect to hazardous waste management:
 - (1) To study the current and projected need for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal capacity in the State in light of anticipated generation of hazardous waste and alternatives for hazardous waste treatment and disposal;
 - (2) To evaluate the potential for the development of additional hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal capacity by the private sector;
 - (3) To study the necessity for and scope of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities which are sited, owned, or operated by the State:
 - (4) To review progress in securing a volunteer county to host a hazardous waste treatment facility;
 - (5) To study incentives and compensation for the community which hosts, either voluntarily or involuntarily, a hazardous waste treatment facility, including any additional incentives and compensation which may be needed, whether there should be differential compensation for a volunteer county, options for use of funds by local governments, distribution of compensation among local governments, and methods of providing flexibility in the development of an incentives and compensation package for a particular local community;
 - (6) To review progress in developing interstate agreements for the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste;
 - (7) To assist in the development of cooperative, comprehensive regional approach to hazardous waste treatment and disposal;
 - (8),(9) Repealed by Session Laws 2001-474, s. 12.
 - (10) To study the capacity assurance requirement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-510, 94 Stat. 2767, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., as amended, and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986,

- Pub. L. No. 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613, as amended as it relates to the continued eligibility of North Carolina for remedial actions under Superfund;
- (11) To study alternatives available to the State for dealing with hazardous waste and the ramifications of those alternatives; and
- (12) To receive and evaluate reports of every State agency, board, and commission which has any power or duty with respect to hazardous waste management.

§ 120-70.44. Additional powers.

The Environmental Review Commission, while in the discharge of official duties, may exercise all the powers provided for under the provisions of G.S. 120-19, and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Environmental Review Commission may meet at any time upon the call of either cochairman, whether or not the General Assembly is in session. The Environmental Review Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the Legislative Services Commission.

Notwithstanding any rule or resolution to the contrary, proposed legislation to implement any recommendation of the Environmental Review Commission regarding any study the Environmental Review Commission is authorized to undertake or any report authorized or required to be made by or to the Environmental Review Commission may be introduced and considered during any session of the General Assembly.

§ 120-70.45. Compensation and expenses of members.

Members of the Environmental Review Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1.

§ 120-70.46. Staffing.

The Legislative Services Officer shall assign as staff to the Environmental Review Commission professional employees of the General Assembly, as approved by the Legislative Services Commission. Clerical staff shall be assigned to the Environmental Review Commission through the offices of the Supervisor of Clerks of the Senate and Supervisor of Clerks of the House of Representatives. The expenses of employment of clerical staff shall be borne by the Environmental Review Commission.

§ 120-70.47. Funding.

From funds available to the General Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate monies to fund the work of the Environmental Review Commission.

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COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

The Environmental Review Commission met seven times during the interim between the 2009 and the 2010 Regular Sessions of the General Assembly.

October 15, 2009 – 9:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

- Call to order
 Representative Lucy T. Allen, Presiding
- 2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs
 Senator Robert C. Atwater
 Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter
 Representative Lucy T. Allen
 Representative Pryor A. Gibson
- 3. Report to the Commission, explanation of agenda items, and a discussion of studies that the Commission is authorized to undertake

 Jeff W. Hudson: Commission Counsel, Research Division, NCGA
- 4. Report to the Commission on environmental legislation enacted during the 2009
 Regular Session and pending for the 2010 Regular Session

 Jennifer L. McGinnis: Commission Counsel, Research Division, NCGA

 Jennifer R.F. Mundt: Commission Analyst, Research Division, NCGA
- 5. Report from the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources

 Dee A. Freeman: Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
- 6. Quarterly reports by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) as to its operations, activities, programs, and progress for the period from January 2009 through September 2009 (G.S. 143B-282(b)); and annual report on the desirability of requiring and the feasibility of obtaining reductions in emissions of NOx and SO₂ beyond those required by the "Clean Smokestacks Act" (S.L. 2002-4, Sec. 11)

 Stephen T. Smith: Chairman, Environmental Management Commission
- 7. Commission discussion and announcements
- 8. Adjournment



November 12, 2009 - 9:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

1. Call to order

Senator Robert C. Atwater, Presiding

2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs

Senator Robert C. Atwater Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter Representative Lucy T. Allen Representative Pryor A. Gibson

- 3. Report to the Commission and explanation of agenda items Jeff Hudson: Commission Counsel
- 4. Report on recent federal actions related to climate change

Victor Flatt: Tom & Elizabeth Taft Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law, School of Law, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

5. Report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's reconsideration of the ground level ozone standard

Keith Overcash: Director, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

6. Report on ozone control strategy options

Sheila Holman: Deputy Director, DAQ, DENR

7. Report on the Status of North Carolina's Idle Reduction Rule

Michael Abraczinskas: Supervisor, Rules Development Branch, DAQ, DENR

8. Report on diesel emission reduction grants

Heather Hildebrandt: Environmental Engineer, DAQ, DENR

9. Report on climate initiatives within the Division of Air Quality of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Sushma Masemore: Supervisor: Allied Programs Branch, DAQ, DENR

- 10. Commission discussion and announcements
- 11. Adjournment



December 17, 2009 – 11:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

- 1. Call to order
 Representative Pryor A. Gibson, Presiding
- 2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs
 Senator Robert C. Atwater
 Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter
 Representative Lucy T. Allen
 Representative Pryor A. Gibson
- 3. Report to the Commission and explanation of agenda items Jeff Hudson: Commission Counsel
- 4. Report on the 2008 Agriculture Water Use Survey (G.S. 106-24(b))

 Herb Vanderberry: Director, United States Department of Agriculture,
 National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Carolina Field Office
- 5. Report on implementation of the State Water Supply Plan (G.S. 143-355(n))

 Thomas A. Reeder: Director, Division of Water Resources (DWR),

 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- 6. Report on Basinwide Water Quality Management Plans (G.S. 143-215.8B(d))

 Dianne M. Reid: Basinwide Planning Unit Supervisor, Division of Water Quality (DWQ), DENR
- 7. <u>Discussion of stream and wetland mitigation issues, including treatment of projects with multiple environmental benefits</u>
 Robin W. Smith: Assistant Secretary for the Environment, DENR
- 8. Report on the progress of efforts to develop a nutrient management strategy for the Upper Neuse River Basin, including Falls Lake (S.L. 2009-486)

 John W. Huisman: Environmental Senior Specialist, NonPoint Source Planning Unit, DWQ, DENR
- 9. <u>Update on the Neuse River fish kill, presented in conjunction with the annual report on fish kills occurring during the preceding year (G.S. 143B-279.7 (c))</u>

 Jason C. Green: Environmental Senior Specialist, Neuse River Rapid

 Response Team, DWQ, DENR

- 10. Annual report on activities associated with the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (G.S. 113A-67)
 - James D. Simons: Director and State Geologist, Division of Land Resources, DENR
- 11. Commission discussion and announcements
- 12. Adjournment



February 18, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

1. Call to order
Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter, Presiding

2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs
Senator Robert C. Atwater
Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter
Representative Lucy T. Allen
Representative Pryor A. Gibson

3. Report to the Commission and explanation of agenda items Jennifer McGinnis: Commission Counsel

Approval of the minutes for the October 15 and November 12, 2009 meetings of the Commission

- 4. Annual report on the status of leaking petroleum underground storage tanks, the State cleanup fund, and the Groundwater Protection Loan Fund (G.S. 143-215.94M)

 Grover Nicholson: Chief, Underground Storage Tank Section, Division of Waste Management (DWM), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- 5. Solid Waste Management

Presentation of the findings of the annual solid waste management report (G.S. 130A-309.12(c), G.S. 130A-309.14, G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(6), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(8), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(9), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(10), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(11), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(12), G.S. 130A-309.06(c)(13), G.S. 130A-309.63(e), G.S. 130A-309.85, G.S. 136-28.8(g), G.S. 143-58.2(f))

Ellen Lorscheider: Head, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Branch, Solid Waste Section, DWM, DENR

Presentation on the status of recycling and recycling markets in North Carolina

Scott B. Mouw: Chief, Community and Business Assistance Section, Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, DENR

Presentation from Clear Path Recycling, LLC

Ron Salati: Vice President and General Manager, Clear Path Recycling, LLC

- 6. <u>Annual report on the Inactive Hazardous Sites Program (G.S. 130A-310.10)</u>
 Charlotte Jesneck: Head, Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch, Superfund Section DWM, DENR
- 7. <u>Annual report on the effectiveness of the Brownfields Property Reuse Act (G.S.</u> 130A-310.40)

Bruce Nicholson: Brownfields Program Manager DWM, DENR

- 8. Commission discussion and announcements
- 9. Adjournment



March 18, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

1. Call to order

Representative Lucy T. Allen, Presiding

2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs

Senator Robert C. Atwater Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter Representative Lucy T. Allen Representative Pryor A. Gibson

3. Report to the Commission and explanation of agenda items Jennifer McGinnis: Commission Counsel

Approval of the minutes for the <u>December 17, 2009</u> meeting of the Commission

4. Report on the implementation of the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards and subsequent proceedings (S.L. 2007-397; Senate Bill 3)

Edward S. Finley, Jr.: Chairman, North Carolina Utilities Commission

Quarterly reports by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) as to its operations, activities, programs, and progress for the periods from October 2009 through December 2009 and January 2010 through March 2010 G.S. 143B-282(b)); and update on the status of the rulemaking process to implement the nutrient management strategy and the turbidity strategy for Upper Falls Lake (S.L. 2009-486, Sec. 1(c)

Stephen T. Smith: Chairman, Environmental Management Commission

6. <u>Annual report on activities associated with the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act</u> of 1973 (G.S. 113A-67)

James D. Simons: Director and State Geologist, Division of Land Resources, DENR

- 7. Commission discussion and announcements
- 8. Adjournment



April 15, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 544 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda

1. Call to order

Representative Pryor A. Gibson, Presiding

2. Introductory remarks by Cochairs

Senator Robert C. Atwater Senator Daniel G. Clodfelter Representative Pryor A. Gibson

3. Report to the Commission and explanation of agenda items Jennifer McGinnis: Commission Counsel

Approval of the minutes for the February 18, 2010 and March 18, 2010 meetings of the Commission

4. Division of Parks and Recreation

Video -- Conservation, Innovation: North Carolina State Parks

Annual report on the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (G.S. 113-44.15(c))

Lewis R. Ledford: Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

5. Annual report on awards from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (G.S. 113-77.9(e))

Lisa D. Riegel: Executive Director, North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, DENR

6. Annual report on the implementation of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (G.S. 113A-257)

Richard E. Rogers, Jr.: Executive Director, Clean Water Management Trust Fund

7. <u>Annual report on the activities of the North Carolina Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Committee (G.S. 106-744(i))</u>

D. Dewitt Hardee: Environmental Program Manager, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

8. <u>Update on Land for Tomorrow</u>

Tom Cors: Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina Chapter

- 9. Commission discussion and announcements
- 10. Adjournment



May 11, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Room 643 300 North Salisbury Raleigh, North Carolina Agenda





LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS



