



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory  
Governor

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Secretary

October 1, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION  
The Honorable Brent Jackson, Chair  
The Honorable Ruth Samuelson, Co-Chair

FROM: Neal Robbins, Director of Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: 2013 Basinwide Water Quality Management Report

DATE: October 1, 2013

Pursuant to G.S. 143-215.8B, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall submit to the Environmental Review Commission a report 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 by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Please consider the Basinwide Management Plan Report attached as the formal submission of this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (919) 707-8618 or via e-mail at [neal.robbs@ncdenr.gov](mailto:neal.robbs@ncdenr.gov).

cc: Mitch Gillespie, Assistant Secretary for Environment, NCDENR  
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# NCDENR DWR Basinwide Planning Program's Annual Report to the ERC – Oct. 1, 2012 through Sept. 30, 2013

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) is in the process of combining the basin planning functions of DWR, the former Division of Water Quality and the Ecosystems Enhancement Program to allow more integrated river basin planning. Integrated river basin planning will allow closer coordination of quantity, quality and restoration activities. The complete plan for moving forward to integrate water quality, quantity and restoration planning is expected to be finished by the end of 2013.

Stakeholder input and public participation during this year was maintained through increased electronic communication. Additional work was done during the year to better identify the users of basin management plans and to build on recommendations to refine and improve the documents for specific user categories. Website statistics indicated a variety of public and private users, several hundred each month. More than 30 professional user groups and agencies use the basin plans on at least four different watershed scales, ranging from the six digit hydrologic unit code (larger) to the twelve digit hydrologic code (smaller watershed size).

In addition to providing information on the status of waters in the state, the basinwide water quality management plans provide an opportunity for local governments, natural resource groups, researchers, soil and water agencies, and others to receive funding priority for some of the water quality improvement and protection grants and loans. Leveraging recommendations provided in the basinwide plans with local actions increases a project's attractiveness in many instances.

Basinwide management plans, including historical documents, are available at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/bpu>. Due to the rotating planning, monitoring and permitting cycle, eight of the basins received more attention during this year than others. Data analyses to support permitting were conducted specifically for the Broad, Neuse, Cape Fear and Yadkin basins. River basins with plans being drafted during this period include: Cape Fear, White Oak, Chowan and Pasquotank Rivers. Significant data analysis has been done in these river basins and a precursory trend analysis of nutrient data in the Neuse River basin was conducted.

The legislative requirement for this report (GS 143-215.8B) specifically calls for a statement as to all pollutants that are identified in surface waters. Water quality impairments are identified every other year through the formal water quality assessment process. The next reporting cycle for this formal process will be in 2014, when all impairments are compiled and submitted to the U.S. EPA for review and approval pursuant to the Clean Water Act. That data is shown below for the 2010 (covers 2004-2008) and 2012 (2006-2010) reporting years by parameter. More information on these analyses can be found at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/mtu/assessment>.

