

Report to the Environmental Review Commission

Pursuant to S.L. 2014-120, Sec. 29 REFORM AGENCY REVIEW OF ENGINEERING WORK

January 14, 2015

Name of Local Government Unit:

Wake County Environment Services Department, Watershed Management Section. *Note: Wake County also administers the local erosion and sedimentation control programs for the following municipalities: Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wendell and Zebulon and the local municipal stormwater ordinance for Rolesville, Wendell and Zebulon.*

Approved/delegated program subject to reporting requirements:

☒ Sedimentation/erosion control

☒ Stormwater

☐ Water/sewer

☐ Cross-connection

☒ 401 certifications

☐ Other Type program name



Melinda Clark, Watershed Manager

12/16/2014

Date

Name of local government unit: [Wake County]

Note: Wake County also administers the municipal sedimentation/erosion control programs for Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wendell, Zebulon and the local stormwater ordinances for Rolesville, Wendell, and Zebulon.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures whereby plan reviewers distinguish between plan changes that are required by statutory or other legal authority and those that the reviewer offers as suggestions for improvement. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(b)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program identifies the statutory or regulatory authority for any revisions or requests for additional information that are required by the program in order to grant the requested plan permit, approval, or license. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(b)(2) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures for local governments to follow when (1) a Professional Engineer submits a sealed design or practice that is not in the local government's guidance, manuals, or standard operating procedures, and (2) the submitting Professional Engineer requests additional internal review of that design or practice. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established a procedure whereby the plan reviewer's supervisor OR the approving/delegating state agency can provide further review and oversight of these design details. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program either employs a Professional Engineer who can conduct further review of these innovative designs, or maintains a list of consulting Professional Engineers of the local government unit's choice that may conduct this review, if requested by and paid for by the submitting Professional Engineer. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established an informal internal process to address disputes when a plan reviewer identifies a change to the plans as being "required" under a specific,

identified legal authority. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(2) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program discontinued use of the word “engineer” in the job titles of all program employees whose responsibilities include review of plans in affected programs, *unless* those employees hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h) for further details about this requirement.

Name of local government unit: Wake County

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program reviewed the titles of all employees conducting plan reviews for this program. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program proposed revisions to those employees’ job titles in order to eliminate use of the word “engineer” when publicly identifying those employees, if those employees do not hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h)(2) for further details about this requirement.

Additional information:

1. *Identify “required” vs. “suggested” changes.* Plan review checklists note standards and reference statutory authority or other legal authority (i.e. Wake County Unified Development Ordinance) for requirements.
2. *Innovative designs involving a Professional Engineer, second review by PE.* If a second review by a PE is requested; either a PE with Wake County will conduct the second review or the County will contract with a consulting PE provided the consultant’s review fee is paid for by the submitting Professional Engineer.
3. *Disputes involving changes that are “required”.* The informal process for resolution is to escalate disputes to plan review’s supervisor or the delegating State agency (if applicable). The Wake County Unified Development Ordinance provides a formal process for an appeal of an erosion and sedimentation control plan disapproval to the Director of Environmental Services or directly to the State agency. Stormwater decisions related to Article 9 of the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance may be appealed to the hearing panel of Wake County Human Services Board.
4. *Job titles.* Wake County employs personnel classified as an Environmental Engineer/Consultant to conduct plan reviews. The title of Environmental Engineer/Consultant will remain the official title for human resources purposes. However, when communicating with the public, the employee will use one of the following titles: 1) Watershed Manager or 2) Environmental Consultant. An employee that is a licensed PE may use the word Engineer in their title.
5. *Selection of a private – sector PE if local unit does not employ a PE.* Wake County will follow its existing procurement policies and procedures if it elects to procure the services of an outside consulting PE.