

STATEMENT OF JEFFREY POUPART

1. I am the Section Chief for the Water Quality Permitting Section, which is within the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Water Resources (DWR). I have been in this position since July of 2014. Before taking this position, I was employed at DEQ as the Wastewater Branch Supervisor from 2008 to 2014, the Pretreatment and Emergency Response Unit Supervisor from 2004 to 2008, the Non-discharge Compliance Supervisor from 1998 to 2004, an Environmental Chemist from 1994 to 1998, and an Environmental Technician from 1992 to 1994.
2. DEQ's 401 and Buffer Permitting Branch is one of the water quality programs that I oversee in my role as Section Chief for the Water Quality Permitting Section.
3. I am aware of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) issued to Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACP) by DEQ on January 26, 2018.
4. I relied on the staff in the 401 and Buffer Permitting Branch to perform the technical review of ACP's 401 application.
5. I met with Jennifer Burdette, 401 Buffer Coordinator, and Karen Higgins, Supervisor of the 401 and Buffer Permitting Branch, during their review of ACP's 401 application to obtain updates on their review.
6. I recall that DWR sent emails and letters to ACP to request additional information necessary for DWR's review of ACP's 401 application. I relied on the staff in the 401 and Buffer Permitting Branch to draft those requests.
7. I attended some of the regularly scheduled meetings where DWR provided updates on the status of its review of ACP's 401 application to the Department. It is common for the Department to have regularly scheduled meetings for large projects, especially projects, like the ACP project, that involve more than one division within the Department.
8. I am not aware of any direction being given to DWR to accelerate or delay its review and decision on the Certification.
9. I am aware that a draft denial letter was prepared for the ACP 401 application. My understanding is that it is common for the 401 and Buffer Permitting Branch to prepare a draft denial letter for any 401 certification that is subject to a public hearing and Director's decision.
10. I did not have any communication with anyone working in the Governor's office about the Certification before it was issued by DWR.

11. I was not aware of the Mitigation Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. on January 25, 2018 until it was reported in the news media after the Certification had been issued.


Name _____ Date 10/31/19

State of North Carolina, County of Wake
I, Wren Thedford, Notary Public do hereby
certify that JEFF PUPAT personally appeared
before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing
instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 31 day of October,
2019 Wren Thedford, Notary Public

