

Summary of Water Allocation Committee Meeting

February 9, 2005, 10:00 AM
Conference Room #3, 14th Floor, Archdale Building
Raleigh, NC

Agenda

Committee Members Present

Leo Green Jr, Chair
Kenny Waldroup

Action Items

I. Concord/Kannapolis Petition for Interbasin Transfer

This item was a continuation of a similar item in the December meeting when it was decided that more time was needed by the committee to review the supporting environmental documentation.

Bill Kreutzberger of CH2MHill briefly summarized the interbasin transfer (IBT) request, explaining the selection process of the alternatives considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He also addressed a previously mentioned concern about the IBT request during the ongoing Catawba and Yadkin River Basin relicensing. He said that both Duke Power and ALCOA gave feedback to go ahead with the IBT process so that the IBT could be considered in the relicensing process.

Comments and Discussion

Marion Deerhake of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) expressed concerns that the EIS may not adequately address impacts on lake levels in the Yadkin River Basin. She also commented that it seems premature to go to public hearing at this point without a completed EIS and because of an ongoing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing process for Catawba and Yadkin Basin reservoirs. She also stated that she thinks the public should have a chance to comment on both the draft and final EIS. CH2MHill had previously addressed Ms. Deerhake's comments in a memo that was presented to the Committee.

David Moreau was not present in the meeting, but he sent written comments on the EIS and petition to the applicant's consultant. He said that he did not see a reason to hold up sending the matter to public hearing but commented as follows:

- 1) Assumptions used in making water use forecast in the EIS need to be more clearly stated.
- 2) Discussion of impacts on the source basin on page 12 of the petition are confusing.
- 3) Better assessment of impacts during drought years need to be made.

Action

The motion was made and decision made to present the matter to the EMC in their Feb. 10 meeting.

Update Items

I. Southern Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area Agreement

Nat Wilson of DWR gave an update on an agreement between the Lumber River Council of Governments, Bladen County, Smithfield Foods, and the Division of Water Resources. The agreement requires quarterly reports on development of a surface water treatment facility as an alternative source of water, and funding of expansion of the regional monitoring well network. There has been progress made on these initiatives. Today's report is the first required quarterly report and so far all requirements of the agreement have been met.

Mr. Green asked why it had been such a slow process to choose a consultant for the proposed water treatment plant. He also asked for a more detailed report of the progress on the treatment plant including a timeline of deadlines, and an update on the monitoring well network and groundwater levels.

II. House Bill 1215 – Water Conservation and Water Reuse

Mr. Morris stated that the Department and EMC were given two responsibilities by this bill. This first was to provide a non-regulatory report on how the State can improve water use efficiency by all users. This report was produced and delivered in February of 2004.

The report is now being revised to include more feedback from a number of sectors of the public on how best to implement water conservation.

The other responsibility to the EMC is to set up administrative rules to be applied during droughts. The rules are to set up standard regulatory procedures for water conservation during droughts and water emergencies. A first and second draft of the rules have already been presented to the Water Allocation Committee and a third draft is in process and will be presented soon.