



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: Dec. 6, 2010

Contact: Sarah M. Young
Phone: (919) 715-4939

Public invited to participate on discussion of future water use plans for Roanoke River Basin

RALEIGH – Officials have scheduled two meetings next week to inform people and gather input about state efforts to plan for future water use in the Roanoke River Basin.

The meetings will be from 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Dec. 13 and Dec. 17. The Dec. 13 meeting will be in Room 401 of Halifax Community College, 200 College Drive in Weldon. The Dec. 17 meeting will be in the Advanced Technologies Building of Rockingham Community College, 560 County Home Road in Reidsville.

The meetings will enable the N.C. Division of Water Resources to start gathering information about the water users in the Roanoke River Basin. The state agency is developing a water resources plan and a hydrologic model that can be used by planners, developers and county officials in the Roanoke River basin. The Roanoke River Basin spans parts of 19 counties on or near the Virginia border, including parts of Rockingham, Stokes and Caswell counties.

“These plans are critical in evaluating current and future conditions as they describe the water resources of the basin,” said Tom Reeder, director of the N.C. Division of Water Resources. “The plans will help determine if there will be enough water throughout the basin to satisfy all the uses of the water under all types of hydrologic conditions.”

The Division of Water Resources is responsible for developing a water resources plan for each of the state’s major river basins. Each plan is based on 50-year water use projections and uses a detailed hydrologic model that tracks all surface water by quantifying withdrawals, the return of treated wastewater to the basin and the impact of reservoir operating rules.

The development of a hydrologic model for the Roanoke River Basin is a key component of the final Roanoke River Basin Plan. State agencies use the hydrologic computer models to evaluate and make decisions about proposed water withdrawals, plan for increased water use due to growth and manage river basin water demands during a drought.

State officials have completed models for the Cape Fear and Neuse river basins and are working on models for the Broad and Tar-Pamlico basins. The hydrologic models will enable local governments to evaluate options for expected water needs in the basin during the next 50 years.

No prior registration is required for these meetings. People unable to attend can still watch the meeting by logging onto the live webcast of the meeting at <https://DENR.ncgovconnect.com/DWRRoanoke>. Please visit the website before the meeting to check for compatibility and then log in during the scheduled meeting times. When you join the meeting, type your name in the space labeled “guest.” Please call (919) 501-4273 to listen to the presentations.

Diana Kees, Communications Director
Phone: (919) 715-4112

diana.kees@ncdenr.gov

<http://www.facebook.com/ncdenr>

Facebook:

1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601
<http://www.facebook.com/ncdenr>

RSS feed: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/opa/news-releases-rss>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/NCDENR>