



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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State environmental officials to seek comment on plan for drinking water projects

RALEIGH – State environmental officials will meet next week to receive public comments on their plan for how to help North Carolina municipalities fund this year's most pressing drinking water projects.

People are invited to attend the 2:30 p.m. Jan. 17 public hearing in the Coastal Plain Room (Room 1107) of the new Environment and Natural Resources Building, 217 West Jones St., Raleigh.

The annual public hearing is a routine step that officials with the state's public water supply section use to determine where to direct money from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The fund comes from the Environmental Protection Agency and a 20 percent required state match. The federal government will contribute to the fund about \$24.6 million contingent on the state's match of \$4.9 million.

During the public hearing, the state will seek comments on the plan, which is proposed for federal approval. The plan includes requirements for the types of projects to be funded, how projects are prioritized and other criteria for allocating the money. The proposed intended use plan can be viewed at http://www.ncwater.org/pws/srf/Pages/federal_reports.htm.

Congress in 1996 created the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to help public water systems finance the cost of infrastructure needed to protect public health and comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

People who wish to speak during the hearing should sign-in at 2 p.m. Spoken comments should be limited to three minutes. Written comments may be provided at the public hearing or mailed to Vincent Tomaino at 1634 MSC, Raleigh, NC, 27699-1634, or emailed to vincent.tomaino@ncdenr.gov. Written comments will be received until Jan. 17.

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