



## Division Success Stories

Jan 2013 – September 2013

DWR facilitated a unique collaborative approach to nutrient management on Lake Wylie that protects its water quality, but will allow a new regional wastewater plant to be built that facilitates continued growth in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg urban area. **(Science, Economics)**

DWR and the City of New Bern collaborated to develop a unique NPDES wastewater permit that allowed for New Bern's use of an unused stone quarry to help meet its wastewater effluent nutrient limits. **(Science, Economics)**

The division developed compromise language for Senate Bill 515 (Jordan Lake rules) that could result in saving the state more than 100 million dollars if the pilot test is a success. **(Economics, Science)**

DWR's expedition of authorizations for Vance County's drinking water expansion project enabled the county to meet a tight eligibility deadline to secure a \$10 million grant. County commissioners presented DENR Secretary Skvarla with a plaque expressing their appreciation. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

In February, 2013, Ashley Furniture Industries in Davie County requested that the division rescind their wastewater irrigation permit to allow closure of the associated lagoons. Ashley was anxious to receive closure permission so they could begin new construction where the lagoons were located. Due to WSRO's extra efforts, Ashley was able to close both facilities without slowing down new construction activities. WSRO collaborated with DWR's central office to expedite wetlands and stormwater permitting at Ashley's new facility. It will eventually be the largest furniture manufacturing and distribution center in the world. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

The Division worked with the Sampson County Economic Development Commission and Enviva to reevaluate features that the Corps of Engineers had determined to be isolated wetlands during the extreme of the drought in 2010. That reevaluation determined that there were no wetlands on the site, eliminating the need for an isolated wetlands permit and saving approximately 1.6 million dollars in associated mitigation fees. The proposed wood pellet production facility would bring an investment of between \$95 million-\$117 million in taxable property, as well as 79 direct jobs at an average salary of \$37,000. There also could be 130 indirect jobs in the forest supply and logistics chain, 300 contractor and project crew jobs during the construction of the facility, and \$35 million in purchases in the local logging and forestry industry. **(Science, Economics)**

In a first for the state of North Carolina, DENR has initiated legal actions against a major utility company because of non-compliance with state and federal regulations. In a series of actions, the Division of Water Resources has brought suit against all 14 Duke Energy coal fired steam stations to address violations of their individual NPDES permits. The noncompliance issues, although unique for each facility, generally concern unpermitted discharges and violations of groundwater standards. The Asheville Steam Electric Generating Plant in Buncombe County, and the Riverbend Steam Station in Gaston County are the subject of a proposed Order of



Consent which specifies required actions, a timeline for performance and stipulated penalties. The proposed order is currently in review by the Wake County Superior Court. **(Science)**

The division's Outside Involvement Committee held its first meeting in September. The Committee enables stakeholders to work closely with DWR staff to develop a list of rules and regulations requiring amendment or revision. Their next meeting will be in December. **(Customer Service)**

With input from affected stakeholders, the division has proposed a more flexible water withdrawal permit that adopts a customer service oriented approach. This permit will be available to qualifying permittees and is contained in the division's proposed 2013 CCPCUA Final Assessment Report. It is anticipated that this new permitting avenue will be approved by the EMC in November 2013. **(Customer Service)**

Mooresville Regional Office staff provided technical assistance when the City of Hickory's water treatment plant was forced to shut down as a result of excessive rainfall. Staff worked from 1AM to 11:30AM, at which point the plant was again able to produce acceptably treated water and was placed back on-line, thus averting a Safe Drinking Water Act violation. **(Customer service, Economics)**

With above-average rainfall in NC this year, DWR staff worked closely with animal operations on their freeboard issues and was able to minimize any environmental impacts while avoiding NOVs related to freeboard violations. **(Customer service, Economics)**

DWR Resources received a draft Long Term Dredging Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in April. The NC Attorney General's Office & DENR submitted their comments and change requests to the Corps, where the MOA is currently under review. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

All DWR's Water Quality Projects' permitting programs are now included in DENR Application Tracker which provides public access to permit information for all outstanding permit applications. **(Customer Service)**

DWR-WQP now has nine interactive facility locator maps available through the website to aid in planning for municipalities and developers, as well as to provide information to citizens. The maps show locations of facilities and activities that have active water quality permits. **(Customer Service)**

Acceptance of electronic permit fee payments was implemented by DWR-WQP with permit renewal invoices mailed out in July 2013. DWR-WQP is now accepting payments electronically. Currently we are only able to accept Electronic Bank Transfers (EBT); credit card payments will be added as an option this fall. **(Customer Service)**

The division developed a new no fee NPDES General permit for local end users that will allow for use of treated reuse water without the burden of obtaining individual permitting. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

DWR has initiated the first major overhaul of North Carolina's groundwater quality monitoring strategy in 13 years. The new strategy will ensure that state groundwater quality monitoring meets state and public needs for



groundwater quality data, in the cost-effective and timely way. This effort will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to protect groundwater resources. **(Economics)**

DWR worked in collaboration with the operators of hybrid striped bass farms to resolve potential water quality issues and permit the facilities with general permits, removing the burden of obtaining individual wastewater discharge permits. Due to this approach, five businesses and their associated jobs remained viable. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

DWR revised its process for permitting extensions of sewer service to provide flexibility in construction of costly sewer infrastructure upgrades while still requiring utilities to have a plan that assures safe management of wastewater resulting from future growth. **(Economics)**

The division modernized its wastewater pollutant monitoring data reporting system to interface with EPA's new Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) that will allow greater transparency to the public and a path forward for greater data management efficiency in the future. **(Customer Service)**

DWR developed a stakeholder group to evaluate streamlining of permitting of the wastewater discharge associated with water treatment plants. **(Science, Customer Service)**

DWR's Fayetteville Regional Office has supported and encouraged regionalization of wastewater treatment services that result in significant economic benefits for the utilities. Examples for this year are: Ft. Bragg discharging to Harnett County, Ellerbe discharging to the City of Rockingham, Town of Vass discharging to Moore County Regional. Regionalization both improves water quality and saves money by combining several wastewater treatment plants resulting in significant economies of scale. **(Science, Economics)**

DWR's Mooresville Regional Office staff provided a 24-hr turn-around on a sewer extension permit for Wal-Mart for a store located in Huntersville, NC. Quick turnaround on the permit allowed the store to open on time. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

Over the course of numerous severe rain events from May through August in DWR's Mooresville Region staff worked closely with towns and their consultants to provide quick turnaround times on gravity sewer permits (24-48 hours) and with DOT for 401 water quality certification approvals (72 hours). **(Customer Service)**

The Lab Data Submittal (LDS) computer application was completed in August 2013. This user-friendly, free-of-charge web-based application allows laboratories to report bacteriological analytical results for drinking water samples electronically, which in turn reduces submittal time and expense for the state as well as the laboratories. **(Customer service, Economics)**

Assistance provided by the Winston-Salem Regional Office during the seven-month startup phase of the new Davidson Water Treatment Plant elicited praise and appreciation from the Vice President of the associated



engineering firm: “..the coordination and assistance we received was unparalleled”. **(Customer service, Economics)**

NW Lake Wylie LLC, a developer in Gaston county, praised Mooresville Regional Office for providing “an excellent example of cooperation between DENR and the regulated community” following their prompt assistance is a development project of 670 acres slated to bring jobs and revenue to the state. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

Technical and compliance assistance provided by DWR PWS staff to the Town of Newland enabled the Town to achieve Lead/Copper Rule compliance in June 2013. **(Customer Service)**

Washington Regional Office staff provided technical and regulatory assistance to the Town of Mount Olive on a pressure filter project at the Boling Water Treatment Plant. The Town stated that they appreciated that the staff “never lost sight of the end goal to improve Mount Olive’s water quality”. **(Customer Service)**

The source of a total coliform and E.coli contamination in Cedar Grove Retreat’s water system was identified and eliminated with assistance from PWS staff. **(Customer Service)**

With recent disease issues impacting herd health with major financial impacts on swine production, DWR staff has instituted additional biosecurity measures, at the same time working closely with the industry to provide flexibility in flow rates at transportation truck washing facilities. **(Economics, Science)**

DWR’s Raleigh Regional Office staff assisted a poultry processing company in Siler City to purchase a former large poultry processing facility previously owned by a bankrupt competitor. Staff worked closely with the new owners to assist them in resuming operation by expediting the permit transfer and providing technical assistance to get the plant operational. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

Buffer reassessment by DWR’s Raleigh Regional Office staff allowed a more efficient and cost-effective manner to eliminate drainage features in a biosolids application field in Halifax County, enabling the permittee to safely apply biosolids to approximately 10% more acreage and yielding an increase in the farmer’s hay fields without compromising water quality. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

Increased flexibility provided by the Washington Regional Office to management and operations of the Town of Fremont’s wastewater spray irrigation system resulted in increased financial savings to the Town. **(Customer Service, Economics)**

The Winston-Salem Regional Office received a letter of appreciation from The Cottages of Boone, an off-campus housing facility for students at Appalachian State University, after staff went above and beyond working non-typical business hours to provide a start-up inspection and approval before the University’s fall semester. **(Customer Service)**



Division staff members have been participating in the Biofuels Workgroup with the Biofuels Center of NC, NC State University, and the Department of Agriculture to develop land application rates for crops that can be converted to biofuels, and to approve waste application for switchgrass. Regulatory framework is now in place to enable Chemtex to build a biofuel processing facility in Sampson County, bringing jobs and revenue to NC. **(Science, Economics)**

DWR's Environmental Sciences Section conducted fish community sampling as part of on-going program of reintroducing extirpated native fish into the Pigeon River and Richland Creek. To date, this cooperative multi-stakeholder effort has resulted in the successful reintroduction of seven native species back into these waterbodies. **(Science)**

A Sediment Oxygen Demand (SOD) study was conducted by ESS for the City of Durham to support their modeling of the local watershed (Northeast Creek near the RTP) saving the City a significant amount of money. **(Science, Economics)**

DWR's Chemistry Lab has improved sampler access to laboratory and field data, by allowing the retrieval of images of submitted field sheets in conjunction with final data reports. **(Customer Service, Science)**