



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Public invited to comment on state surface water quality standards

RALEIGH – State officials will host a public hearing in Raleigh Nov. 19 on the state's surface water quality standards, which protect human health and the environment and form the basis for many federal and state environmental programs.

The public hearing is being hosted by the N.C. Division of Water Resources on behalf of the state Environmental Management Commission. The hearing starts at 1:30 p.m. in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Building, 512 North Salisbury St. Registration for speakers is at 1 p.m.

The hearing will be recorded. Written comments also will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted until 5 p.m. Jan. 3, 2014. Written comments should be sent to: Connie Brower; N.C. Division of Water Resources Water Planning Section; 1611 Mail Service Center; Raleigh, NC 27699-1611. Written comments also can be sent by email to connie.brower@ncdenr.gov.

Comments on water quality criteria, use classifications and anti-degradation policies are welcome. Also, the state will accept comments on variances from surface water quality standards for discharges including chloride variances for Mt. Olive Pickle Company in Wayne County and Bay Valley Foods, LLC in Duplin County; and a variance from the color standard for Evergreen Paper Products in Haywood County. Comments on water temperature variances for discharges to surface waters are also welcome.

Surface water quality standards are established to protect human health and the aquatic environment and form the basis for many state and federal permit, monitoring and assessment programs. Under the federal Clean Water Act, North Carolina is delegated authority to establish water body classifications and applicable water quality standards to protect human and aquatic health. Standards may include numeric and narrative criteria and designated use classifications, as well as anti-degradation provisions, to protect all uses of state waters. The state is required to hold a public hearing at least once every three years, known as the Triennial Review, to gather public comments on the state standards.

No specific changes for this Triennial Review have been proposed by the N.C. Environmental Management Commission.

The water quality regulations appropriate to this review are Title 15A NCAC 02B .0100-.0110, .0201-.0228, .0230-.0231 and .0300-.0317 located at [15A NCAC 02B Regulations](#).

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