



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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March 12 public hearing scheduled on state rules for streamside buffer mitigation

RALEIGH – The state Division of Water Resources has scheduled a public hearing in Raleigh on March 12 to gather comments on the proposed streamside buffer mitigation regulations.

The proposed rulemaking will amend current temporary Mitigation Program Requirements for the Protection and Maintenance of Riparian Buffers adopted by the state Environmental Management Commission Sept. 30. The Division of Water Resources, on behalf of the Environmental Management Commission, proposes the amended temporary rule for permanent adoption.

Proposed changes to the temporary rule include:

- Reorganization of the rule to provide greater clarity
- Language changes, where needed, to provide consistency
- Changing requirements for providing financial assurances for mitigation projects
- Clarifying the allowance for retroactive crediting to include all types of mitigation sites.

The hearing will be held in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Building, 512 North Salisbury St., Raleigh. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. Both oral and written comments may be presented at the hearing. The division asks that oral presentations that take longer than three minutes be accompanied by a written copy of the comments.

In addition, written comments may be submitted to:

Sue Homewood
Division of Water Resources – Winston Salem Regional Office
450 West Hanes Mill Road, Suite 300
Winston Salem, NC 27105.

Submit comments by email to: sue.homewood@ncdenr.gov. Please note “Buffer Mitigation Rule” in the subject line.

Comments must be received by 5 p.m. April 17 to be considered.

Information about the current temporary version of the rule, the changes proposed for adoption and the history of rule development can be found on the Division of Water Resources’ website at:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/proposed-consolidated-buffer-mitigation-rules>.

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