



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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State hosting March 4 public hearing on proposed change to water transfer certificate

RALEIGH – State officials are hosting a public hearing at 7 p.m. March 4 in Mint Hill on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department's request to add the Goose Creek Watershed to the area receiving water as part of an interbasin transfer certificate.

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission approved a certificate in 2002 allowing the utility to transfer up to 33 million gallons of water per day from the Catawba River basin to the neighboring Yadkin River basin.

One condition of the certificate excluded the Goose Creek Watershed in Mecklenburg County from the interbasin transfer area because officials had not fully evaluated the possible impacts of the transfer on the Carolina heelsplitter, a federally-endangered species in the watershed. Since that time, measures have been put in place to lessen the impacts on the species. Now, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department is requesting to modify its certificate to remove that condition and allow the Goose Creek Watershed to be included in the transfer of water between the two river basins.

The hearing will be in the John M. McEwen Assembly Room of the Mint Hill Town Hall, 4430 Mint Hill Village Lane. The N.C. Environmental Management Commission is hosting the public hearing to gather comments on the proposed change to the interbasin transfer certificate.

To request the change, the state required the Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department to produce an environmental assessment with the proposal and make that document available to the public. A draft of the environmental assessment can be found at: http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Interbasin_Transfer/status/cmud/. The document may also be viewed at the hearing or during normal business hours at the Raleigh offices of the N.C. Division of Water Resources, Archdale Building, 512 North Salisbury St., Room 1106.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend or provide relevant written and verbal comments. Staff with the N.C. Division of Water Resources is requesting that people submit written copies of oral comments. Based on the number of people who wish to speak, the length of oral presentations may be limited.

If you are unable to attend, you may send written comments to Toya Ogallo at the N.C. Division of Water Resources, 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1611. Comments may also be submitted electronically to Toya.F.Ogallo@ncdenr.gov. Mailed and emailed comments will be given equal weight. All comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by March 31.

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