

In applying for an Individual Permit, can a Groundwater Compliance Boundary (under 15A NCAC 02L .0107) be extended beyond a distance of 250 feet from the waste treatment disposal area?

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The Compliance Boundary can be extended outwards by obtaining a variance from the Environmental Management Commission under Rule 15A NCAC 02L .0113 (the Variance Section).

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The basic procedure for obtaining a variance is to submit an application in the form of a letter to the Environmental Management Commission that includes a justification for the request and extensive supporting information.

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The Director of the Environmental Management Commission reviews the application and requests additional information, if necessary. When the application is complete, the Director gives public notice of the application and schedules a public hearing.

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After the public hearing takes place, there is a 30-day comment period during which written comments are submitted to the Environmental Management Commission. These comments are considered by the Environmental Management Commission prior to their taking final action.

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If the decision of the Environmental Management Commission is not acceptable to the applicant, the applicant has 60 days to file a petition for a contested case with the State's Office of Administrative Hearings.

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**The Permitting of Closed-loop
Recycle Systems (as authorized
under 15A NCAC 02T .1000):
An Outline**

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"Closed-loop Recycle Systems" are defined as systems in which nondomestic wastewater is repeatedly recycled back through the process in which the waste was generated.

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Systems which are not covered under a Closed-loop Recycle System Permit, but are addressed in other Sections of the 2T Rules are:

- * Recycled water from animal waste lagoons,
- * Recycled water from Groundwater Remediation systems, and
- * Systems that treat and apply tertiary-treated Reclaimed water.

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Some types of Closed-loop Recycle Systems are "deemed permitted", and therefore require no permit:

- * The wastewater is contained within an industrial or commercial process (and under roof) where there is no anticipated release of the wastewater. Earthen basins are not allowed, and a spill control plan must be developed and maintained by the facility,

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Closed-loop Recycle Systems that are "deemed permitted" (continued):

- * Recycling of rinse water at concrete mixing facilities,
- * Recycling of wash and rinse water at vehicle washing facilities,
- * The reuse or return of wastewater within the treatment works of a permitted wastewater treatment system.

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Some of the Design Criteria for Permitted Closed-loop Recycle Systems:

- * No public access is allowed to the recycled wastewater, or to its storage structures or to the wastewater treatment equipment,
- * Impoundments and trenches handling recycled wastewater require natural or artificial liners (hydraulic barriers), unless it can be demonstrated by calculation or modeling that a reduced liner will not contravene Groundwater Standards beyond the Compliance Boundary, or contravene the Surface Water Standards.

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