

Appendix V

Other Water Quality Data in the New River Basin

Other Water Quality Research

North Carolina actively solicits "existing and readily available" data and information for each basin as part of the basinwide planning process. Data meeting DWQ quality assurance objectives are used in making use support determinations. Data and information indicating possible water quality problems are investigated further. Both quantitative and qualitative information are accepted during the solicitation period.

High levels of confidence must be present in order for outside quantitative information to carry the same weight as information collected from within DWQ. This is particularly the case when considering waters for the Impaired categories in the Integrated Report. Methodology for soliciting and evaluating outside data is presented in *North Carolina's 2002 Integrated Report*

<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/2002%20Integrated%20Rept.pdf>.
The next data solicitation period for the New River is planned for Fall 2007.

Any data submitted to DWQ from other water sampling programs conducted in the New River basin have been reviewed. Data that meet quality and accessibility requirements were considered for use support assessments and the 303(d) list. These data are also used by DWQ to adjust the location of biological and chemical monitoring sites. In particular, DWQ has reviewed and considered information developed through the Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN) as managed by the University of North Carolina Asheville (UNCA) Environmental Quality Institute (EQI). Other programs or research that developed data or information are presented in individual subbasin chapters.

Each county with monitoring stations has a coordinator to organize and train volunteers and to ensure that all stations are monitored monthly. In the New River basin, the National Committee for the New River (NCNR) initiated a monitoring program on five streams within Ashe County, which includes the headwaters of North Fork New River. The locations are listed in the following table. The locations generally agree with DWQ ambient monitoring stations or benthic sampling sites; however, the data was not used for use support determinations.

VWIN has collected one year of monthly data for these streams. This provides a good base of information, but it does not capture the variety of weather and other events that may affect stream water quality. Parameters monitored include major nutrients, turbidity, suspended solids, pH, alkalinity, conductivity and heavy metals such as zinc, copper and lead. The subbasin chapters discuss streams where VWIN monitoring revealed water quality impacts.

DWQ data solicitation includes the following:

- Information, letters and photographs regarding the use of surface waters for boating, drinking water, swimming, aesthetics and fishing.
- Raw data submitted electronically and accompanied by documentation of quality assurance methods used to collect and analyze the samples. Maps showing sampling locations must also be included.
- Summary reports and memos, including distribution statistics and accompanied by documentation of quality assurance methods used to collect and analyze the data.

Contact information must accompany all submitted data and information.

County	Stream Name	Sampling Location
Ashe	Helton Creek	Near Confluence with North Fork New River (SR 1538)
	Big Horse Creek	Near Confluence with North Fork New River (SR 1514 and NC 194)
	Buffalo Creek	Near Confluence with North Fork New River (NC 194 and SR 1351)
	Big Laurel Creek	Near Confluence with North Fork New River (NC 88 and SR 1315)
	North Fork New River	Near Confluence with Three Top Creek (NC 88)