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Division of Water Quality

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**MEMO**

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Cyndi Karoly, 401 Oversight and Express Permitting Unit  
John Hennessy, Transportation Permitting Unit

RE: Updated Level Spreader Design Guidelines  
Final Version, Effective Date January 1, 2007

On July 28, 2006, the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) circulated a draft updated version of the Level Spreader Design Guidelines. The intent of this revision was to preclude future implementation of unsuccessful designs, and to encourage use of designs that have shown to perform successfully over time. Following a 30-day public comment period, all comments received were comprehensively reviewed by staff of DWQ and North Carolina State University's Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department. The guidance was modified to incorporate technical improvements and practical considerations as appropriate.

The final version of the Level Spreader Design Guidelines, including the Level Spreader Worksheet, plus sample overview and sideview drawings, are posted on the DWQ website at: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/regcert.html>. This set of guidelines will have an effective date of January 1, 2007. All existing applications, as well as applications received by December 31, 2006, will be considered for approval under the existing guidelines (titled *Draft Level Spreader Design Options, Version 1.0*, dated October 10, 2001). However, we strongly recommend that project designers implement the updated guidelines as quickly as possible. The use of designs that consistently fail structurally, develop maintenance problems, or do not accomplish diffuse flow may lead to costly re-design during future compliance evaluations.

DWQ appreciates the input provided on these guidelines. Technical questions related to this final guidance should be directed to Cynthia Van Der Wiele, Ph.D. ([Cynthia.Vanderwiele@ncmail.net](mailto:Cynthia.Vanderwiele@ncmail.net) or 919-715-3473 or 2321 Crabtree Blvd, Suite 250, Raleigh, NC, 27604) or to the other environmental engineer position within the 401 Oversight and Express Permitting Unit (currently vacant position to be filled in late 2006) at 919-733-1786.

CK/JH/cbk

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