BRUNSWICK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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February 17, 2009

Mr. Stephen Smith, Chairman
North Carolina Environmental Management Commission
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Subject: Notice of Intent to File a Petition for an Interbasin Transfer Certificate Pursuant to G.S. § 143-215.22L(c)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Brunswick County, among the fastest growing counties in the state, provides water to more than 30,000 retail customers and 11 wholesale customers. Future demand for water has prompted a proposal to expand the County's Northwest Water Treatment Plant (WTP). In conjunction with this proposed expansion, future increases in the transfer of water from the Northwest WTP's source, the Cape Fear River, to customers in the adjacent Lumber Major River Basin, are expected to trigger the need for an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate from the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) under the Regulation of Surface Water Transfers Act.

The County has two water treatment plants: the Northwest WTP, located near Northwest and supplied by water from the Cape Fear River, and the 211 WTP, located near St. James and supplied by 15 groundwater wells into the Castle Hayne Aquifer (Figure 1). The Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority supplies raw water to the Northwest WTP from an intake on the Cape Fear River above Lock and Dam 1. The Northwest WTP and 211 WTP have permitted capacities of 24 million gallons per day (MGD) and 6 MGD, respectively. The Northwest WTP is now approaching 80 percent capacity on peak days. To meet future water demand, the County is proposing to expand the Northwest WTP from 24 MGD to 36 MGD.

The expansion of the Northwest WTP is expected to trigger the need for an IBT certificate since a portion of the surface water treated at the Northwest WTP in the Cape Fear River Basin, as defined by G.S. § 143-215.22G, is distributed to customers in the Shallotte River Basin and the Waccamaw River Basin, both of which are located in the Lumber Major River Basin. Waters located in the Lumber Major River Basin (except for the Lockwoods Folly and

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DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Shallotte Rivers), including the Waccamaw River, are tributaries of the Pee Dee River, which flows to Winyah Bay in South Carolina. The Shallotte River and Lockwoods Folly River are also considered part of the Lumber Major River Basin and flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean.

Under the grandfather provision of the Regulation of Surface Water Transfers Act, Brunswick County may transfer up to 10.44 MGD from one designated river basin to another without an IBT certificate. Based on water demand projections, it is expected that the County's grandfathered transfer capacity will be exceeded during the year 2012 and therefore require an IBT certificate. At that time, 9.68 MGD and 0.76 MGD are expected to be transferred to the Shallotte River Basin and Waccamaw River Basin, respectively, and not returned to the source river basin. The County is requesting an IBT certificate from the EMC for a maximum transfer of 18.35 MGD to the Shallotte River Basin and a maximum transfer of 0.94 MGD to the Waccamaw River Basin based on projections through 2040.

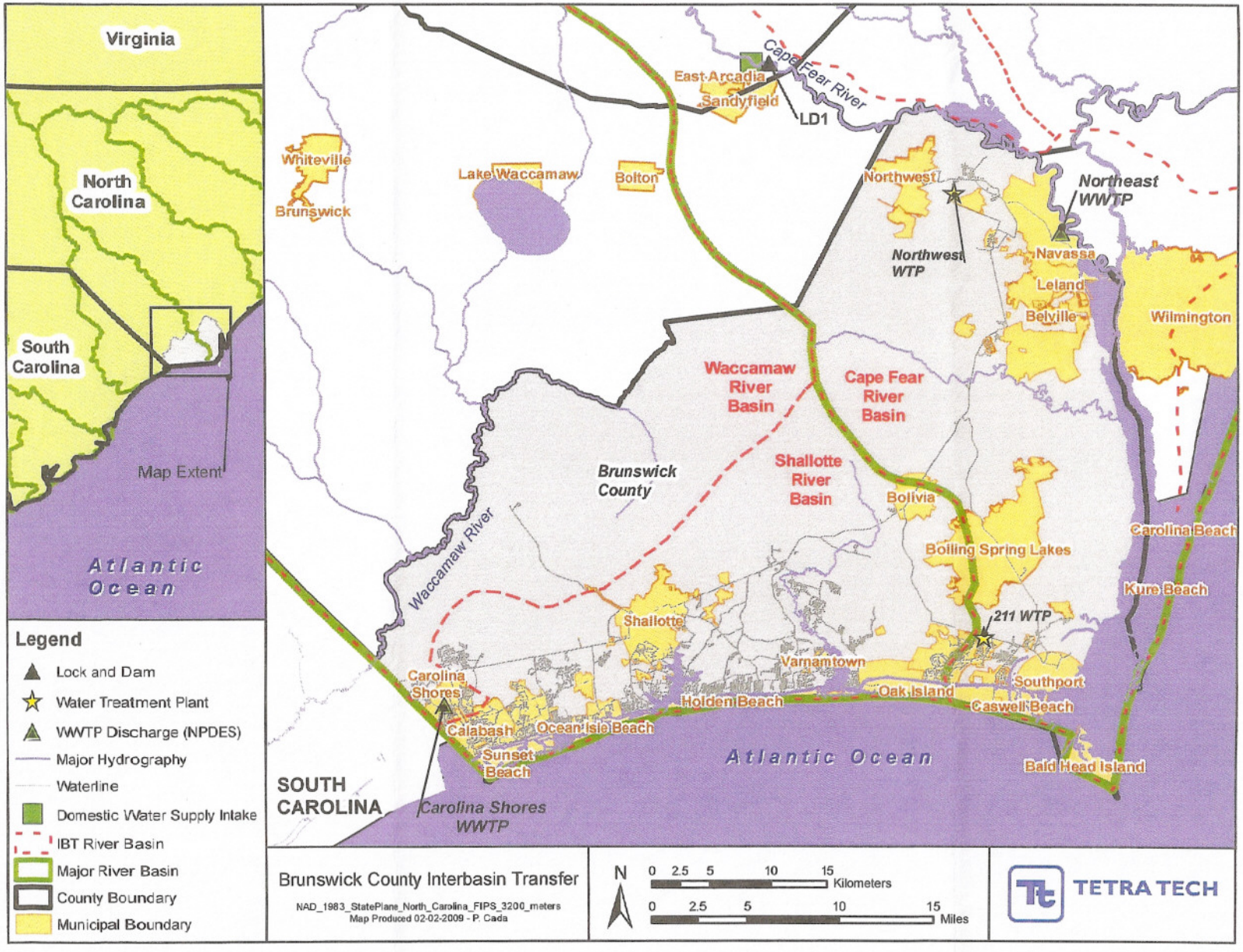
Therefore, as a duly authorized official and on behalf of Brunswick County and its co-applicants, the towns of Oak Island, Shallotte, Holden Beach, and Ocean Isle Beach, I hereby file this Notice of Intent to File a Petition for an Interbasin Transfer Certificate Pursuant to § 143-215.22L(c). As required by law, we intend to provide public notice and hold four public meetings within 90 days of issuing this Notice of Intent to provide information to interested parties and the public regarding the nature and extent of the proposed transfer and to receive comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

William M. Sue
Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Enclosures

cc: Tom Reeder, Director, NC Division of Water Resources
Jerry Pierce, Director of Public Utilities, Brunswick County


Virginia
North Carolina
South Carolina
Map Extent
Atlantic Ocean
Legend
Lock and Dam
Water Treatment Plant
WWTP Discharge (NPDES)
Major Hydrography
Waterline
Domestic Water Supply Intake
IBT River Basin
Major River Basin
County Boundary
Municipal Boundary
East Arcadia
Sandyfield
Cape Fear River
LD1
Whiteville
Brunswick
Lake Waccamaw
Bolton
Northwest
Northwest WTP
Northeast WWTP
Navassa
Leland
Belville
Wilmington
Waccamaw River Basin
Cape Fear River Basin
Shallotte River Basin
Brunswick County
Waccamaw River
Bolivia
Boiling Spring Lakes
Carolina Beach
Kure Beach
211 WTP
Shallotte
Varnamtown
Carolina Shores
Holden Beach
Oak Island
Southport
Caswell Beach
Calabash
Ocean Isle Beach
Sunset Beach
Bald Head Island
SOUTH CAROLINA
Carolina Shores WWTP
Brunswick County Interbasin Transfer
NAD_1983_StatePlane_North_Carolina_FIPS_3200_meters
Map Produced 02-02-2009 - P. Cada
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0 2.5 5 10 15 Kilometers
0 2.5 5 10 15 Miles
TETRA TECH

Figure 1.

Contact Information

Primary Applicant

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Co-Applicants

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