



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Water Resources

Michael F. Easley, Governor

William G. Ross Jr., Secretary  
John N. Morris, Director

## **Cities of Concord and Kannapolis Proposed Interbasin Transfer**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**June 22, 2005, 5:00 PM**

McKnight Auditorium in the Cone Center, Third Floor  
UNC-Charlotte

**June 23, 2005, 5:00 PM**

Albemarle City Hall Annex  
157 N. Second Street  
Albemarle, NC 28001

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission will hold two public hearings to receive comments on a petition for an interbasin transfer from the Catawba River and Yadkin River Sub-Basins to the Rocky River Sub-Basin. The Cities of Concord and Kannapolis are requesting an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate from the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission for a total transfer of 48 million gallons per day (MGD) on a maximum day basis. The maximum day IBT under the proposal would be up to 38 MGD from the Catawba River Sub-Basin and up to 10 MGD from the Yadkin River Sub-Basin.

Under the proposal, the applicants would meet short-term water supply demand increases using interconnections with Charlotte (Catawba), Salisbury (Yadkin), and Albemarle (Yadkin). Long-term demands would be met by developing a raw water supply from Lake Norman (Catawba) to supplement flows to Lake Howell and Kannapolis Lake. IBT occurs because of consumptive use in and discharge to the Rocky River Sub-Basin via the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County's Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The IBT certificate is being requested to meet a projected cumulative water demand shortfall of 24 MGD (average day demand) in 2035.

Notice of these hearings is given in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-215.22I(d). The first public hearing will start at 5:00 PM on June 22, 2005 on the Third Floor of McKnight Auditorium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC. The second hearing will begin at 5:00 PM on June 23, 2005 in the Albemarle City Hall Annex, Albemarle, NC. In addition, Division of Water Resources (DWR) staff will be available to answer questions from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the hearing locations. The public may inspect the staff's recommendation report, the interbasin transfer petition, and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) supporting the petition during normal business hours at the offices of DWR, 512 N. Salisbury Street, Room 1106, Archdale Building, Raleigh. These documents may also be viewed at the DWR web site:

[http://www.ncwater.org/Permits\\_and\\_Registration/Interbasin\\_Transfer/Status/Concord/](http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Interbasin_Transfer/Status/Concord/)

**According to the draft EIS, there are no expected significant direct impacts in either the Catawba River or Yadkin River Sub-Basins. No significant changes are predicted in lake levels, downstream flows, or water supply withdrawals. Direct impacts on water supply, water quality, wastewater assimilation, fish and wildlife resources, navigation, or recreation are not expected since there will be no significant changes in the hydrology of the system due to the increased withdrawal. There is some potential for loss of power generation capacity in the Yadkin Sub-basin.**

**The draft EIS concludes that there are no secondary impacts related to growth in either of the source basins. However, the IBT will provide additional water supply to support growth and development in the receiving basin. Mitigation measures presented in the IBT petition are expected to mitigate secondary impacts related to growth and development in the receiving basin.**

**The draft EIS was circulated among agencies of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Division of Water Quality, Natural Heritage Program, and the Wildlife Resources Commission were the primary commenting agencies. Their comments included concerns concentrated on secondary and cumulative impacts in the receiving basin on aquatic habitat and water quality. Suggested mitigation measures were specified, such as stream buffers and development ordinances, including low impact development measures.**

The purpose of this announcement is to encourage those interested in this matter to provide comments and to comply with statutory notice requirements. You may attend either of the public hearings and make relevant oral comments and/or submit written comments, data, or other relevant information. Written submissions of oral comments at the hearings are requested. The hearing officers may limit the length of oral presentations if many people want to speak. If you are unable to attend, written comments can be mailed to Phil Fragapane, Division of Water Resources, DENR, 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1611. Comments may also be submitted electronically to [Phil.Fragapane@ncmail.net](mailto:Phil.Fragapane@ncmail.net). All comments must be received before July 1, 2005. Oral, mailed, and emailed comments will be given equal weight.

Under the Regulation of Surface Water Transfers Act (G.S. 143-215.221), persons intending to transfer 2.0 mgd or more, or increase an existing transfer by 25 percent or more, must first obtain a certificate from the Environmental Management Commission. As part of the petition process, the applicants completed an environmental impact statement. Review of the environmental impact statement by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been completed in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act.

*The public is invited to comment on the applicants' petition and supporting environmental impact statement.* The Commission is considering and seeking comments on three options with regard to the interbasin transfer request. The options are: (a) grant the certificate for the interbasin transfer request; (b) deny the interbasin transfer request; or (c) grant the certificate including any conditions necessary to achieve the purposes of the statute or to provide mitigation measures.

The public is invited to comment on the following possible conditions and to suggest any other appropriate conditions, including limitations on the amount of the transfer:

1. The Cities of Concord and Kannapolis will enact the following buffer definitions as part of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO):
  - A perennial stream buffer shall be an undisturbed area measured, at minimum, 50 feet from the top of stream bank plus 20 feet of vegetated setback, totaling 70 feet
  - An intermittent stream buffer shall be an undisturbed area measured from the top of stream bank perpendicularly for a distance of 20 feet with an additional 10 feet of vegetated setback, totaling 30 feet

The UDO shall require that within stream buffer areas, the following regulations will apply:

- No new on-site sewage systems utilizing ground adsorption
  - No new structures
  - Maintenance of stream buffers to maintain sheet flow and provide for diffusion and infiltration of runoff and filtering of pollutants
2. All municipalities and counties receiving water and/or sewer services from the Cities of Concord and/or Kannapolis shall comply with the UDO, including the stream buffer requirements. Municipalities and counties potentially affected include Harrisburg, Landis, Midland, Mount Pleasant, and Cabarrus County.
  3. Prior to transferring water under the proposed IBT certificate, the holders of the certificate will work with the Division of Water Resources to develop a compliance and monitoring plan subject to approval by the Division. The plan will include methodologies and reporting schedules for reporting the following information: maximum daily transfer amounts, compliance with permit conditions, progress on mitigation measures, and drought management. A copy of the approved plan will be kept on file with the Division for public inspection. The Division of Water Resources will have the authority to make modification to the compliance and monitoring plan as necessary to assess compliance with the certificate.
  4. If either the EIS were to be found at a later date to be incorrect or new information were to become available such that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed transfer were substantially different from the projected impacts that formed the basis for certifying the IBT, the Environmental Management Commission can reopen the certificate to adjust the conditions or to require new conditions to ensure that the detriments of the transfer continue to be mitigated to a reasonable degree.

For more information or to download the EIS supporting this IBT request, visit the Division of Water Resources' website at

[http://www.ncwater.org/Permits\\_and\\_Registration/Interbasin\\_Transfer/Status/Concord/](http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Interbasin_Transfer/Status/Concord/)

You may also contact Phil Fragapane in the Division of Water Resources at 919-715-0389, or email: [Phil.Fragapane@ncmail.net](mailto:Phil.Fragapane@ncmail.net)