



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: Sept. 22, 2006

Contact: Jamie Kritzer
Phone: (919) 715-7357

Decision on Interbasin Transfer Request Postponed

RALEIGH – A decision on whether to grant Concord and Kannapolis an interbasin transfer certificate has been postponed.

David Moreau, chairman of the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, decided to postpone consideration of the proposal, which was initially scheduled for the commission's November meeting, until the following commission meeting.

The EMC was scheduled to consider the interbasin transfer certificate during its Nov. 9 meeting.

Moreau decided to postpone the decision on the proposed interbasin transfer in order to give stakeholders and the members of the commission more time to consider public concerns and viable alternatives to the transfer.

"Given the importance of this proposal, it is imperative that the citizens and communities affected by the proposed transfer have ample opportunity to review it and provide input," Moreau stated in a letter. "The Environmental Management Commission in turn must have a full opportunity to consider public concerns."

Moreau said that he will also recommend to the hearing officers that the formal comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Concord-Kannapolis interbasin transfer be extended by 30 days. The comment period was originally scheduled to conclude on Sept. 30.

By state law, the Environmental Management Commission decides whether to grant or deny an interbasin transfer certificate on the proposed transfer and does so on the basis of factors set out in the law. Concord and Kannapolis are requesting a certificate to transfer water from the Catawba and Yadkin River basins to meet their projected water supply shortfall during the next 30 years. Concord and Kannapolis are requesting a certificate to transfer a maximum of 36 million gallons of water per day with an annual average transfer of 22 million gallons a day.

The EMC is required by state law to consider the necessity and beneficial effects of the transfer and the degree to which the transfer is reasonable. The commission must also consider the water supply needs, the detrimental effects on the source and receiving river basins, wastewater assimilation, water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, hydroelectric power generation, navigation, recreation, flooding and all reasonable alternatives. Then, the Environmental Management Commission must decide whether the benefits of the proposed transfer outweigh the detriments and if the detriments have been or will be mitigated to a reasonable degree.

###