



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Formal Comment Period On Proposed Interbasin Transfer Extended

RALEIGH – Hearing officers with the N.C. Environmental Management Commission have extended the formal comment period on the proposal to transfer water from the Catawba and Yadkin River basins to Concord and Kannapolis.

The hearing officers decided on Thursday to extend the comment period by 31 days because of public interest in the proposed interbasin transfer. The deadline for public comments, originally scheduled to be this Saturday, is now Oct. 31.

Also on Thursday, the hearing officers announced that they intend to make their recommendation on whether to permit the proposed interbasin transfer to the full EMC so it can be considered at the regularly scheduled Jan. 11 meeting. Environmental Management Commission meetings are held at the Archdale Building in Raleigh.

The commission was originally scheduled to consider the interbasin transfer certificate during its Nov. 9 meeting. But EMC Chairman David Moreau decided last week to postpone a decision on the proposal and recommend that the comment period be extended.

Moreau said in a letter that postponing the decision would give stakeholders and the members of the commission more time to consider public concerns and viable alternatives to the transfer.

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.

People who wish to make comments on the proposed interbasin transfer may do so by mailing written comments to: Phil Fragapane, Division of Water Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1611. Comments may also be submitted electronically to Phil.Fragapane@ncmail.net.

If you would like more information, please feel free to request a copy of a study completed by the Division of Water Resources on the interbasin transfer. You may also find the study on the division's Web site, www.ncwater.org.

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